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SUGGESTIONS
FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF
HOSPITALS,
AND OTHER
Charitable Institutions.

SUGGESTIONS

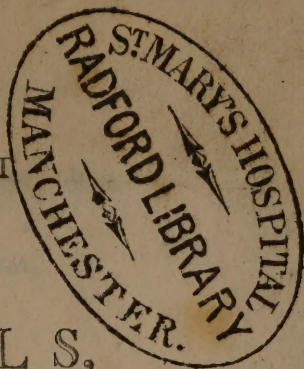
FOR THE

HOSPITAL

AND

CHURCH

SUGGESTIONS
FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF
HOSPITALS,



AND OTHER

Charitable Institutions.

BY WILLIAM BLIZARD,

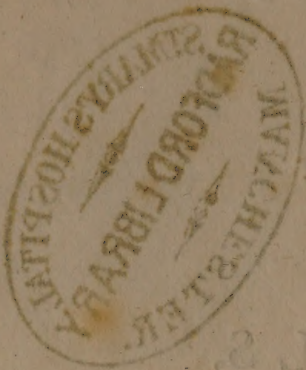
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MDCCXCVI.



TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

William Duke of Gloucester, &c.

PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON-HOSPITAL,

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT

FOR THE VIRTUES THAT ADORN HIS CHARACTER,

PARTICULARLY HIS EMINENT CHARITY,

OFTEN EXEMPLARILY DISPLAYED

IN THE MOST LIBERAL ENCOURAGEMENT

OF THAT INSTITUTION,

THIS TRACT IS HUMBLY INSCRIBED;

IN THE HOPE

THAT IT WILL PROVE IN SOME DEGREE ACCEPTABLE,

AS IT IS INTENDED SOLELY

TO BE USEFUL.

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

William Duke of Gloucester, &c.

PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT

FOR THE VIRTUES THAT ADORN HIS CHARACTER,

I RETURN ONLY ONE EMINENT QUALITY

OFTEN EXCELLENCELY FURNISHED

IN THE MOST LIBERAL ENCOURAGEMENT

OF THAT INSTITUTION

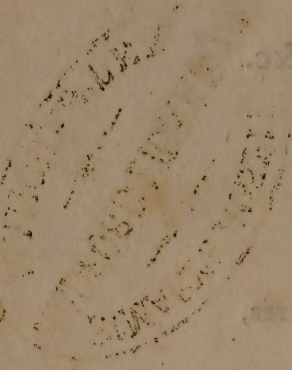
THIS TRACT IS HEREBY INCLOSED,

IN THE NAME

THAT IT WILL PROVE IN SOME DEGREE ACCEPTABLE

AS IT IS INTENDED SOLELY

TO BE USED

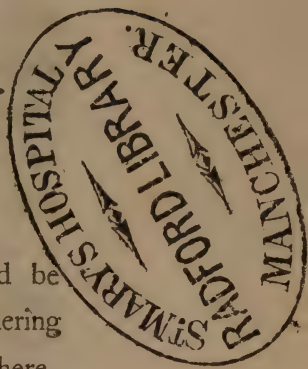


INTRODUCTION.

EVERY offering to the public should be made under the impression of rendering some kind of service to the world: it is, therefore, thought unnecessary to make any declaration concerning the motives of this publication.

The reflections upon the subject of Assistant-Surgeons to Hospitals were written with the intention of strengthening the sentiments of the Governors of the London-Hospital, when the proposition for Assistant-Surgeons was submitted to their consideration. They are here introduced, inasmuch as some Hospitals are still without such an establishment. A deviation from the form in which they were originally printed did not appear necessary.

The



The *Samaritan-Society* will plead for itself, with the small and sweet voice of genuine charity. It is not altogether a new species of institution: the Society at Lyons, called *La Confrairie de la Miséricorde*,* for the relief of sick prisoners, is of the same description. It is well suited to make dispensaries more beneficial. The late amiable Dr. Clerke, who died in consequence of exertion in his duty as Physician to the Middlesex-Dispensary, had contemplated a similar establishment for that charity. - What would have been Mr. Howard's opinion of Samaritan-Societies, particularly annexed to prisons, may be plainly understood from these remarkable concluding words of his work on Lazarettos, viz. "*Should the plan*
"*take place during my life of establishing a per-*
"*manent charity under some such title as that*
"*at Philadelphia, viz. A society for allevi-*
"*ating the miseries of public prisons, and annuities*

* Vide Howard on Lazarettos, page 53.

*“ be engrafted thereupon for the above-mentioned
“ purpose; I would most readily stand at the
“ bottom of a page as a subscriber of £500;
“ or, if such a society shall be constructed within
“ three years after my death, this sum shall be
“ paid out of my estate.”*

In the observations relative to Hospitals there will be found many things of common notice; but they are matters of consequence, and have not had due attention paid to them. Examples might have been adduced, from the different Hospitals, of what is condemned, and of what is approved in these sheets; but such a task would be executed with more effect by the representatives of Hospitals, according to the second proposition. — It was intended to be observed, that the medical establishments of workhouses needed greatly to be inquired into. The salaries to the medical attendants of such places are, generally, inadequate to the duties that *ought to be performed.*

To unite men of like dispositions and pursuits, and make them co-operate for the good of the public, is to turn their talents to the greatest advantage. From this sentiment proceeded the hint for improving the moral economy of the community, (P. 61, Note;) and that for the advancement of medical knowledge, (P. 77, §. XCV.)

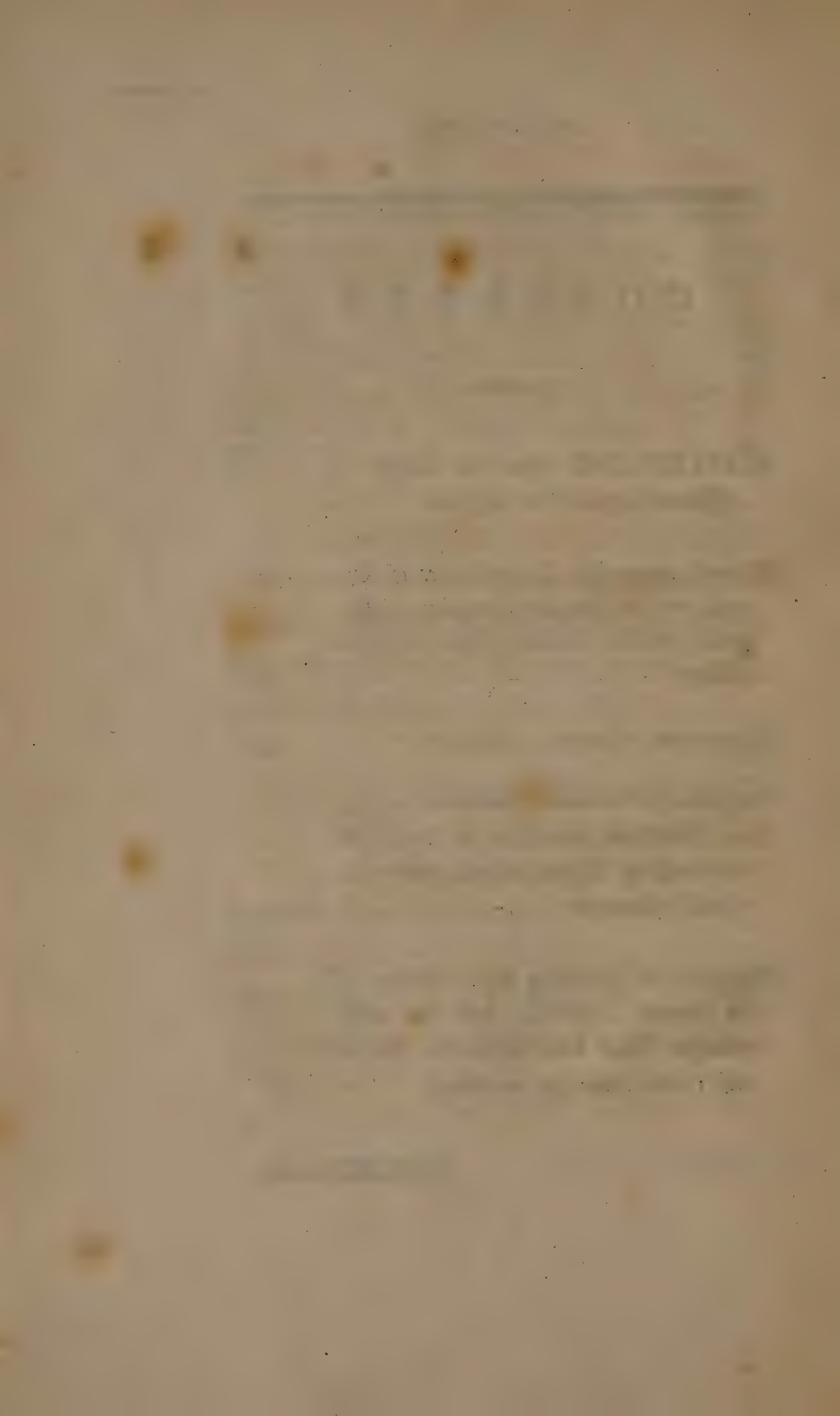
Let the two propositions be fairly considered before they are condemned as utopian. They are presented under the strongest conviction, that they are practicable, and that no evil could possibly arise from trying their effects.

Whatever be the imperfections of these essays for the benefit of those who are in sickness and in want, they may, probably, induce men, better qualified, to render greater services; for the mind, excited to a certain degree, will often move on, until it has worked out something useful, agreeing in tendency with the exciting cause.

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REFLECTIONS



REFLECTIONS

UPON THE SUBJECT OF

ASSISTANT-SURGEONS

TO HOSPITALS.

" The general Duties of all Bodies politic, considered in their corporate
" Capacity, may, like those of natural Bodies, be reduced to this
" single one; that of acting up to the End or Design, whatever it
" be, for which they were created by their Founder."

BLACKSTONE.

AN explanation of any proceeding, upon which the benefits, and reputation, of a public body appear to depend, cannot, it is presumed, be unacceptable to its members.

One would think indeed, that it would be held incumbent on the proposer of any measure of importance, to explain its nature and tendency, especially if its merits be by any denied, or not clearly understood; for it can hardly be deemed

B

sufficient,

sufficient, in such case, that it passes the ordinary forms of approbation; justice to the proposer, and respect to the general opinion, will demand, that the reasons for its adoption should be made plain, and public. On the other hand, the ground for rejecting any proposition will be best understood from the defect of argument freely employed in its defence. And the public voice must ever be in favour of open procedure in public concerns.

The design of this paper is to explain a proposal, lately submitted to the Governors of the London-Hospital, in the event of which every person in the community may, in a certain degree, at some period, become interested: for who are exempted from the immediate or remote effects of the vicissitudes of life? who may not have relations, or friends, the children of misfortune? who expect to journey through life without sickness, or accident; without obligation to the sources of medical information?

The Surgeons, having taken into consideration the state of things in their department, resolved upon submitting the result of their reflections to the decision of a General Court.

Accordingly,

Accordingly, they presented a memorial, containing a proposition for three Assistant-Surgeons: not formed precipitately from a contracted view of local, and temporary, circumstances; but deliberately deduced from extensive observation, and experience, in the hope of increasing all the blessings of the institution.

The Governors of large Hospitals, in conducting their undertakings, do not, generally, consider well all the great objects they comprehend; or do not justly appreciate their own true, and high relation to the public. They are directors of the main springs of the HEALING ART, and are, consequently, responsible for their conduct to science, to humanity, to all mankind.

The charters, and acts of incorporation, of these bodies, were obtained chiefly by men moved by the distress that immediately presented itself, without foreseeing all the great benefits that would accrue from their good works. And the early laws, and regulations, of these societies, were instituted with as little knowledge of the full extent of advantages they are capable of affording.

For sensibility may be directly gratified by the dispensation of comforts within the walls of an Hospital, while little regard may be paid to more distant, but equally urgent, and far more extensive, claims to compassion; the cultivation, and advancement, of medical knowledge, being neglected.

The navy, army, and various parts of the kingdom, and colonies, have afforded frequent, and melancholy, proofs, of the necessity of more attention to Hospitals, as seminaries of medical science.*

Hospitals may be considered as Nature's schools, where pupils are taught her ways in diseases, and casualties; and the effects of the application of means of relief. Notwithstanding they have, in some measure, always been regarded in this light, as appears by the provisions

* The Governors of the London-Hospital, many years ago, signified their sentiments upon this subject, by sanctioning the erecting of a theatre, in which might be taught the principles of the Healing Art: and it has been completed at the cost of individuals.

for students in their earliest statutes, the encouragement they have afforded to medical learning has been very gradual, and limited, and not expressive of the importance of its progress to human kind.

The value of medical science in every walk of life, independently of its application in preventing and curing diseases, should be seriously considered. All men, are indebted to the discoverers, and cultivators, of natural truths, for some share of their more useful knowledge, and of the felicity they enjoy.

Many, therefore, are the objects, interesting to society, that present themselves, in contemplating the professional concerns of an Hospital: and, as in commercial and other affairs of life, they will be best understood by men who have most directed their attention to the subject.

The number of accidental, and extraordinary, cases, admitted into the Hospitals of the metropolis, distinguishes them from all others in the kingdom: and the London-Hospital receives an ample proportion of them. These are the in-

stances that so often require immediate, and lead to the necessity of frequent, visitation; as well as to operations, in which able assistance is demanded.

In most capital operations, the operator requires the aid of more than one assistant, fully acquainted with the structure of the human body, and capable of pointing out circumstances of danger, not, perhaps, in the anxious moment of operating, adverted to by himself.

But bodily indisposition, the calls of private practice, and many other inevitable causes, too often prevent the attendance, and assistance, so necessarily required.

How are the evils, thence arising, to be obviated? In the exigencies of private families, assistance is a matter of instant determination, from any quarter: but no one, beside the authorized, will venture to stretch forth a helping hand in an Hospital: and, if an indefinite latitude in this respect were given, innumerable evils, from ignorance, and presumption, would be the consequence.

Let

Let the number of Surgeons in ordinary remain. The same limitation exists in the other Hospitals, and is, probably, necessary for a due degree of respectability in the station. But shall not sanction be allowed to a sufficient number of able, and vigilant assistants?

The frequent necessity of being visited twice, or oftener, in the day, on account of disease, or accident, is universally felt and acknowledged. And shall a single case, that calls for such watchful attention in an Hospital, go unprovided with it, because there exist not in the place, at the same time, hundreds of beings in equally critical circumstances; or, because the manifestation of the necessity of such provision be not frequent? Are not *all* the inhabitants of an Hospital in a sick, or hurt, condition, and disposed to the uncertain changes of disordered economies? Are not its gates open night and day to every case of perilous injury?

Proper Assistants, while they afford their own immediate services, will stimulate others to more effectual exertions; and thus promote, generally, the designs of the charity.

They will give new spirit to declining years; and excite attention, and diligence, in the rising student. They will form a link, between pupil and instructor, favourable to the improvement of the young inquirer: every occurring incident will be more particularly noticed; every truth will be repeated, illustrated, and more forcibly impressed: better Surgeons will be sent forth to the world.

They will industriously collect, from every source, the suggestions and discoveries of ingenious and learned men, for consideration, and application to the purposes for which the Hospital was founded. The listlessness of age, its concomitant cares, and wordly concerns, are unfavourable to duties and pursuits, for which leisure, and energy of mind and body, are necessary.

The public performance of an operation of delicacy, and importance, is trying. Constant attendance, observation, and assistant practice, in an Hospital, will bring knowledge and firmness, and prepare the powers for their future happy exercise. By the appointment of Assistants, the Hospital will experience a succession of Surgeons,
properly

properly trained, and prepared, for the arduous functions of the situation.

To adopt any number short of that of the principal Surgeons, would express an acknowledgement of the facts upon which the expediency of appointing any is maintained, without duly proportioning means to the end. It would lead to embarrassments, in the execution of the chirurgical duties, unfavourable to regularity, and order.

It is worthy of remark, by Directors of public Hospitals, that, within a short period, the students in surgery of this nation travelled to a foreign land for instruction: but that, since anatomy, and surgery, have been more practically, and scientifically, cultivated in Hospitals, LONDON has become the place of resort for chirurgical information. This pre-eminence, of importance in the scale of national advantage and greatness, must become reversed, by inattention to the means of improving surgery.* The
Governors

* The legislature, and that body of men to which the public attention is naturally directed on account of Mr. Hunter's

Governors of the London-Hospital will never decline contributing to the national character, as dependant upon the celebrity of the seats of medical knowledge in the metropolis.

Hunter's anatomical collection, would do well fully to consider these facts.

This collection may be distinguished into two parts: the one explanatory of the even and regular tenor of nature, in animal production, and preservation, by which her general laws are explained; the other expressive of the effects of extraordinary causes upon the animal organs, under the guidance of those laws. The former shews a design, and scope, unprecedentedly grand, and interesting: the latter evinces a just estimation of the healing art, particularly of that branch which Mr. Hunter exercised; and displays the governing sentiment of utility that moved the designer of the collection. The whole is a system of zoology, too considerable for private purchase; and of too great intrinsic value for a wise people to leave to uncertain conservation, and individual caprice in respect of useful application.

National reputation in the arts, and sciences, is not an empty sound: in this consists true splendour, and all its train of advantages. If London be the seat of men, and things, conducive to the improvement of the mind, and heart, it will be resorted to by foreigners from all parts; who will return with sentiments favourable to the land that gave them knowledge. Thus may useful learning be promoted, and diffused, to the benefit of the human race.

Punctuality

Punctuality in the discharge of the duty to Out-Patients cannot be depended upon, unless the Surgeons will renounce private practice, or there be allowed proper coadjutors. Stricter regard to this part of service is necessary in every Hospital. The Out-Patient of yesterday may to-day be in a state requiring, as an In-Patient, all the help that can be afforded. A closer observance of the condition of Out-Patients would tend more effectually to rescue the poor from the fatal hands of quacks, and from those who would rob them of their little all. A more regular attention to Out-Patients would necessarily follow the proposed arrangement.

The proposition for Assistant-Surgeons is formed on no speculative idea. It opens a prospect, favourable to the patients, the students, to surgery, and the public, without incurring charge, or inconvenience; without uncertainty, for experience has confirmed the utility of the measure.*

* Assistant-Surgeons have a long time been a part of the establishment of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

But

But all the benefits expected from the proposed regulation will depend much upon the qualifications of an Assistant. His elementary knowledge, particularly in anatomy, physiology, and pathology, should be full, and accurate: the longer he has practically studied anatomy, and has attended the institutes, and practice, of surgery, in an Hospital, the stronger will be the presumption that he possesses this necessary information. The probability of impaired powers should be far distant at the period of his succeeding to the office of principal Surgeon. His attention should be devoted to, and he should practise solely, surgery. His residence should be within a short distance of the Hospital: and he should hold no situation that can affect his duties to the charity.

Whether the patronage of Governors would be increased by the appointment of Assistant-Surgeons, which in reality would be the case, or not, is a point of secondary consideration: for as patronage should be exercised solely for the general good, the benevolent man will consider it only as conducive to that end.

If,

If, in their memorial, the Surgeons had not pursued the subject of Assistants to their ultimate destination, would not the plan have been judged incomplete? Were it not natural to suppose that the Governors would receive with satisfaction, any hint, or opinion, relative to a succession of Surgeons more able than their predecessors; without encouraging election arts, without planting jealousy, and without creating divisions? Influenced by such considerations, they proposed, that the Assistants should succeed the Surgeons in the order of priority; as proper in equity and sound policy.*

Whoever has contemplated the office of Surgeon to an Hospital, its attendant disappointments, anxiety, and labour, will not hastily refuse assent to any measure calculated to afford consciousness of more effectual discharge of its duties.

* It is resolved, that upon any vacancy in the office of Surgeon it shall be filled by election from the Assistant-Surgeons. Thus have the Governors wisely conveyed, that abilities and services should have weight in their judgement: and that, in the case only of these being equal, the order of priority should incline the balance in their decision.

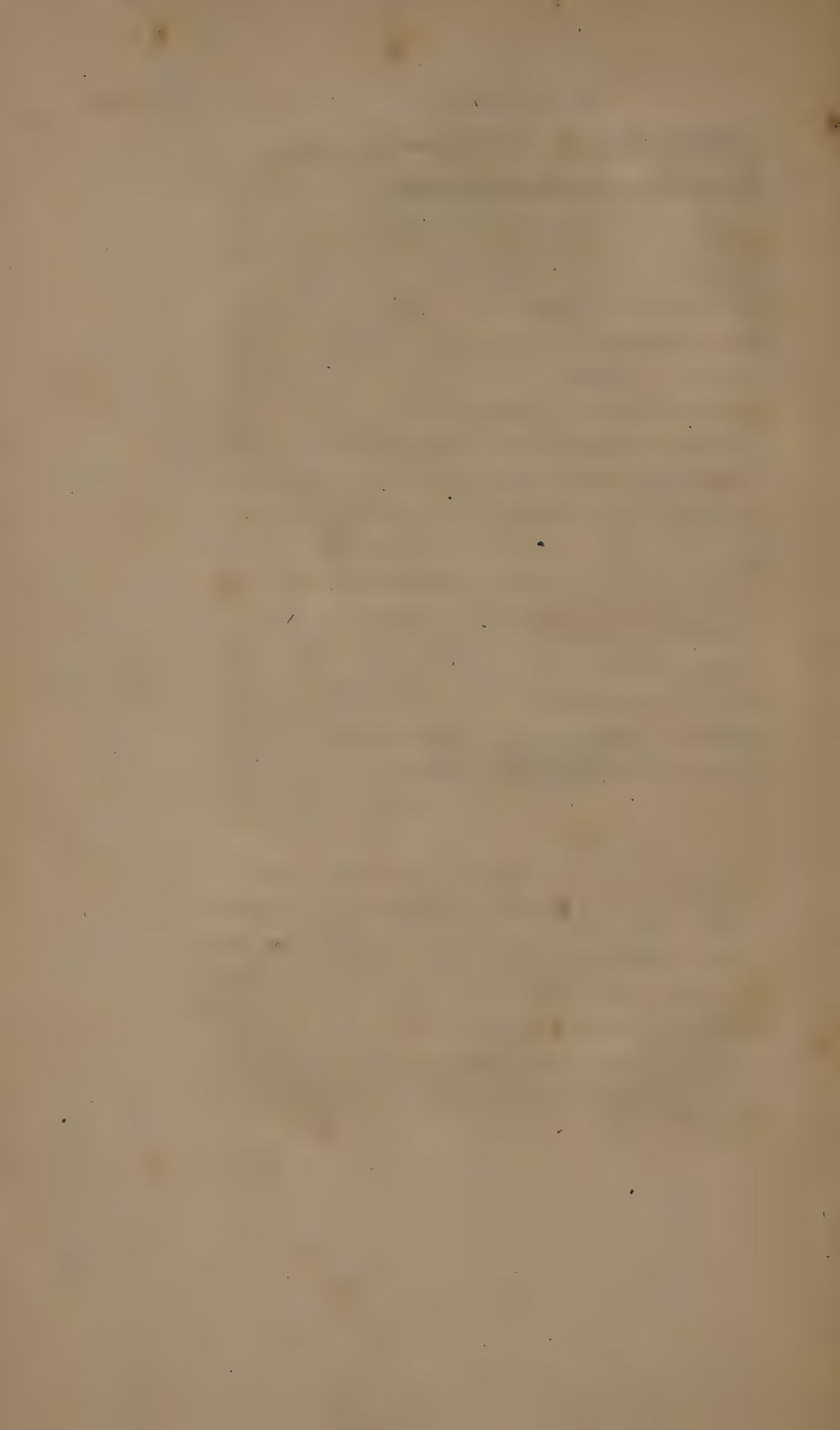
Every

Every thing liberal may be expected where charity is the governing principle of action, and where the good done bears a proportion to the degree of knowledge exercised. Purity of motive, sincerity of intention in the Surgeons, will not then be doubted. It may not, however, be improper to observe, that , their *credit*, and *interest*, are involved in all the proceedings of the Hospital; for its prosperity is their elevation, its depression their loss and regret: that they have never added to the burthens of the charity; on the contrary, that their aid in supporting them has been commensurate with their abilities: that whatever they have proposed from their judgement, and zeal, has been approved by the Governors, in their wisdom, and humanity; with what success in effect, let observers pronounce.

There is yet one remark that must not be omitted. The medical Governors, and Officers, of Hospitals supported by voluntary contribution, have ever been their firm, and effectual, friends. They have frequent opportunities of pleading, and are qualified ably to plead, the excellence of their favourite establishments:
and

and Assistant-Surgeons would prove an addition
to the number of zealous advocates.





R E M A R K S

CONCERNING

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRESS,

NOT WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF

H O S P I T A L S,

WITH THE

ADDRESS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Samaritan-Society.

Nil actum credens, cum quid superesset agendum. LUCAN.

TO learn all the varieties of wretchedness, to remove it, or to soften its pangs, the ear must be unweariedly inclined to tales of woe; the hand must be ever ready to succour; and the heart, and understanding, to advise, to comfort, and to guide.

In the lustre of public charities, misery, of a nature not immediately to attract the eye of pity, often remains unnoticed.

C

The

The greatest exertions of art, and the most diligent care, are extended to poor sick, and hurt, fellow-creatures. But skill, and tenderness, will hardly avail against disease, while the mind is continually depressed by reflection upon a hopeless prospect in life, or upon the condition of a family pining with grief, and want.

In Hospitals, the helping hand of charity is still wanted. Various are the distresses that call for it, frequently admitting of easy relief, not, however, within the limits of such establishments to grant.

The SAMARITAN-SOCIETY was instituted in the view of explaining the circumstances of cases in Hospitals that have claim upon benevolence ; of obtaining a fund from which relief might be afforded ; and providing a body of men that might properly execute, and perpetuate, the good design.

But the Address, and Regulations, of the Society, will explain its intention ; and prove the best appeal to humanity in its favour.

SAMARITAN-

SAMARITAN-SOCIETY,

INSTITUTED

M.DCC.XCI.

“ Take care of him: and, whatsoever thou spendest more, when I
come again, I will repay thee.”

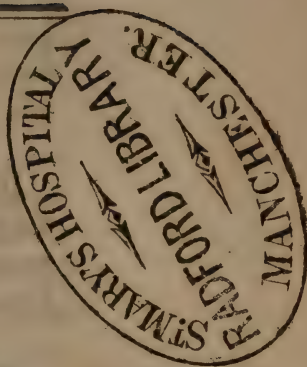
A D D R E S S.

OBSERVATIONS prove, that there is distress in Hospitals, calling upon humanity for consideration, that cannot be brought within the provisions of those valuable institutions.

I. Poor servants who have been obliged to quit their places and go into Hospitals, when dismissed cured, but yet in a weak state, have frequently no friend to receive them, or place wherein to lay their heads *securely*, till they are reinstated in service.

C 2

II. Many



II. Many young females, who, through distress, have pawned or sold their clothing, when raised from the bed of sickness, might be saved from ruin by proper assistance.

III. Many within the walls of an Hospital suffer the greatest anguish on account of their families at home, starving for want of the wages of their labour.

IV. Patients from remote parts of this kingdom, and Ireland, when discharged from Hospitals, in a low, lame, or incurable, condition, frequently know not whither to go, or what course to take for avoiding worse evils than have befallen them. And foreigners, under similar circumstances, experience at least as great hardships.

V. Many a languishing fellow-creature, it is reasonably supposed, might be saved by the opportune benefit of fresh air, for only a few days.

VI. The efficacy of the waters of Bath, where there is an Hospital for paupers, and of the sea, would probably preserve the life of many beings, unable to defray the little expense of a journey.

VII. In

VII. In cases of mutilation of limb, various effectual services might oftentimes be rendered the sufferers, towards gaining a livelihood in ways adapted to their several conditions.

VIII. Patients are frequently without change of linen, so essential to cleanliness and the purity of the air immediately surrounding them, and on which so much depends in respect of the general influence upon those who respire the atmosphere of the place, and those also with whom they may, directly after dismissal, live in service.

IX. Instances occur of blindness, in persons remote from their parishes and friends, in which the distress of the unfortunate sufferers, at their departure from Hospitals, might be greatly alleviated by proper assistance.

X. Cases of rupture, from sudden causes, frequently require trusses, for preventing relapse and even consequent death, when neither parochial nor other assistance can be obtained, and when bodily labour would be dangerous.

XI. In addition to these distresses of patients languishing *within* the walls of an hospital, many,

among the *out*-patients, might be mentioned, demanding every assistance which humanity can afford.

XII. An undertaking for the relief of such wretchedness, directed to *all* the Hospitals in these cities, would probably be too great for an individual society. Observations on the evils, proposed to be remedied, indicate, that the intention would be answered best by an institution, supplementary to each Hospital.

XIII. The LONDON-HOSPITAL is the object to which the attention of *this* society is directed; and, as it is presumed that it will further the design, it is hoped it will likewise advance the interest of that charity.

THE Governors of the LONDON-HOSPITAL, at the Quarterly General Court, holden the 7th of March, 1792, have, by an unanimous resolution, concurred in the views of the SOCIETY, in terms expressing the highest approbation of the institution; and granted permission to the Society to meet in an apartment belonging to the Hospital, and to make every necessary inquiry concerning
the

the distressful circumstances of the patients; that such relief may be administered to them, as the Society shall be enabled, or shall judge proper, to bestow.

REGULATIONS.

1.

A Donation of five guineas shall be a qualification for a member for life.

2.

A donation of one guinea shall be a qualification for an annual member.

3.

A general court shall be held half-yearly on the last Wednesdays in February and August; and shall consist of not less than five members.

4.

A treasurer, and a committee, to consist of not less than twelve members besides the treasurer,

rer, shall be annually elected at the general court in February: two of the committee shall go out annually, and two other members be chosen in their places.

5.

A committee shall be held every Tuesday at twelve o'clock; and shall consist of not less than two members.

6.

Qualified persons shall be proposed at one committee and voted for at the next.

7.

The Committee shall appoint one or more visitors; who shall make inquiries of the officers, or other persons in the hospital, concerning the distressful circumstances of the patients, and report to the next committee accordingly.

8.

No recommendation from any person whatever, whether a member of the society or not, shall

shall be regarded farther than as it may be explanatory of the distress of the object under consideration, and as it may thence assist the committee in their proceedings.

9.

The proceedings of the society shall be exactly recorded; together with the names of all persons relieved, their age, place of nativity, parish, occupation, whether they are married or single, the state of their family, or any circumstance claiming the particular consideration of the society, as well as the relief granted.

10.

The names of at least two members of the committee, by order of the committee, shall be subscribed to drafts upon the treasurer.

11.

An exact account of the receipts, disbursements, and fund of the society, shall be laid before every committee; which shall audit and sign the same, and send an abstract thereof annually to every member.

12.

12.

The treasurer, and two other members, appointed at a general court, shall be trustees for investments in the funds.

13.

All legacies and donations above one guinea shall be added to the invested fund, which shall be INVIOABLE.

14.

The expenditure of each year shall by no means exceed the annual income arising from the interest of the invested fund, and those donations which do not exceed one guinea; nor shall any debt be incurred so as to anticipate the receipts of the society.

15.

Rules for the government of the society shall be approved by one general court, and confirmed by the next; the members being informed of every approved regulation, at least six days before

fore the general court, at which its confirmation will be considered.

16.

At general courts and committees, questions shall be determined by a majority, the chairman having a casting vote; and, if a ballot should be demanded by two members, it shall be proceeded upon immediately.

17.

The treasurer, the assembled committee, or any five members of the society, shall have power to call extraordinary general courts.

* * * To such persons as shall be disposed to promote the designs of this (the first-instituted) Society, and render it permanent, in becoming benefactors by will, the following form is recommended.

*" I give and bequeath unto the Treasurer and
 " Members of the SAMARITAN-SOCIETY, insti-
 " tuted for relieving such distresses of patients of
 " the LONDON-HOSPITAL as are not within the
 " provisions*

*“ provisions of Hospitals, in trust for ever, the
 “ sum of and I desire that the said sum
 “ may be paid out of my personal estate, and added
 “ to the invested fund of the said Society in the
 “ Names of the Trustees thereof, it being my will
 “ that the interest only of the said sum of
 “ shall be applied to the purposes of the said So-
 “ ciety.”*

N. B. Devises of land, or money charged on
 land, or to be laid out in land, are void by the
 statute of mortmain.

Mr. E. C. GREGORY, Treasurer, Leman-Street,
 Goodman's Fields, will receive donations.



THE resolutions of a committee, held the 10th of March, 1795, evince how far the Society had answered the ends proposed; and express new hopes, and expectations, from the adoption of its principles.

At a Special Committee of the SAMARITAN-SOCIETY, held the 10th of March, 1795, for carrying into Effect the Resolutions referred to them by the last General Court.

The Rev. Dr. GLASSE in the Chair.

IT appeared that this Society had extended its benefits to many poor patients in the LONDON-HOSPITAL, and to their wives and families, deprived, during their illness, of the wages of their labour; and also had supplied several with necessaries, when cured of their diseases and in a state of convalescence, till they were able to return to their homes and renew their occupations.

That

That such an appendage to every Hospital in the metropolis, and to every COUNTY-HOSPITAL, would be productive of the most salutary effects.

That such prompt assistance as this Society affords to patients, especially those from remote parts of this kingdom and Ireland, and also to poor foreigners on their final dismissal, in order to help them forward to their respective homes and employs, would be of essential service if extended to *prisoners* discharged from confinement by order of court, when passed to their legal settlements, under the direction of the vagrant-act, 32 Geo. III. cap. 45, §. 4.

That many, who have been so far recovered as to be judged proper to be discharged from hospitals, and yet unable to labour and earn their livelihood, may be saved from ruin by *timely* attentions suited to their immediate necessities; for, on the departure of an unprovided patient from an hospital, or on the discharge of a prisoner from a jail, the door being closed on them and "*the world all before them,*" a gloomy suspense may depress the dejected heart, which a Samaritan-Society, supplementary to each Hospital and prison,

prison, might *seasonably* assuage, and save from delinquency.

RESOLVED,

That these resolutions be published, in the view of inducing those, who approve of the principles of the Samaritan-Society, to consider of adapting a *similar* establishment to every Hospital and prison throughout the kingdom.

The Records of the Society manifest a truth, too little regarded by well-disposed people, namely, that much evil may be prevented, much good done, at little expense, by help *seasonably* supplied. The Society has extended its benefits in a great number of instances of distress, comprehending nearly all the cases enumerated in the address: thus having demonstrated its utility, farther support, adequate to future calls, is anxiously desired; and the more, as it may prove an encouragement to similar attempts in other Bodies.



CURSORY OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO

HOSPITALS.

“What attention these facts deserve, and what measures it may be
“adviseable to adopt in consequence of them, I leave to the deter-
“mination of the proper judges.”

HOWARD ON LAZARETTOS.

I. **H**OSPITALS improve the disposition of mankind, by cultivating charity. A degree of dependance upon public opinion, and munificence, is therefore useful.

II. As asylums for sick and hurt fellow-creatures, they are the most splendid expressions of wisdom and benevolence; particularly in the immediate assistance they are calculated to afford in external injuries.

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III. As

III. As continually presenting instances in which pupils may study the animal economy, when affected by disease, or violence, they are the principal pillars of a rational system of instruction in the healing art.

IV. And, rightly conducted, they mend the morals, as well as restore the health and preserve the lives, of the objects for whose sake they were founded.

V. But, are all the means employed that can contribute to these important ends? Certainly not: on the contrary, some of the most obvious, and useful, are neglected.

VI. The following truths are, therefore, not so much directed to *inform* the mind, as to incline it to the consideration of human imperfection and misery, and the *application* of knowledge.

VII. Hospitals are too much crowded with patients. Parade of number blinds the judgment, and diverts attention from simple principles, and clearly deduced rules of conduct.*

* Witness the observations, and deductions, of Mr. Howard, Mr. Hanway, Dr. Blane, and others.

VIII. The number of patients admitted into an hospital does not indicate the number of lives preserved, the degree of misery lessened, the sum of benefit to the community.

IX. The proportion *cured* and *relieved*, in a given period, is what expresses the happy consequences to society.

X. *Cæteris paribus*, that proportion will rise or fall, considerably, according to the degree of purity of the air respired: and this will be, inversely, according to the number congregated in a given space.*

XI. Animal effluvia produce contagion.† The pernicious impression of air, strongly impregnated

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therewith,

* Every remark respecting the air of hospitals is applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the circumstances of men in cities and towns, in manufactories, poor-houses, and even private dwellings; but more especially to those in camps, and ships, and the wretched inhabitants of prisons: and, therefore, is universally interesting.

† “ It is now known, that the effluvia constantly arising from the living human body, if long retained in
“ the

therewith, is strikingly remarkable in compound fractures, and fractured skulls: * but it is hurtful under all circumstances, however its effects may not be distinctly manifest, or the powers of the body may be superior to its influence. The circumstances of disease are generally polluting to the surrounding air.

XII. The system of hospitals, in respect of number, is founded in a glaring error. By curing, relieving, and dismissing in a shorter time, the sum of patients admitted in a given period may be even greater from a less than from a larger number of inhabitants.

“ the same place, without being diffused in the atmosphere, acquire a singular virulence; and, in that state, being applied to the bodies of men, become the cause of a fever which is highly contagious. The existence of such a fever is fully proved by the late Observations on Jail and Hospital Fevers.”—*Cullen*, First Lines, vol. I. p. 123. — Vide *Pringle; Lind; Ghiseholm; Russ; Smith; &c.*

* Comparative observations of events, in cases of fractured skulls, &c. in Hospitals, and other places, different in degrees of purity of air, afford undoubted testimony of what is here advanced.

XIII. However

XIII. However airy, then, the situation of an hospital, of whatever amplitude, and number, its wards, still its happy effects will be governed by the proportion of sick persons within its walls.*

XIV. It may be admitted, upon the whole, that the limitation of number in Hospitals should be far below what it generally stands. Precision upon this point would demand accurate estimation of the force of many operating causes. But humanity should be satisfied; and, consequently, no more should ever be received than can be dealt by according to the true meaning of the charity.

XV. The circumstances that may prove prejudicial to the air of hospitals are innumerable. To mention some of them may lead to the noticing of others; and to suggestions, and conclusions, how to prevent, or remedy, much evil.

XVI. It is well known that stagnant air soon becomes unfit for vital purposes. Space, and openings for currents of this fluid, are, therefore,

* The magnitude of the London-Hospital, so far from reflecting blame on account of cost, is a proof of the generosity, as well as munificence, of its founders.

necessary for the displacement of such portions as are, or might become, hurtful.*

XVII. Every inclosed place in an hospital, water-closets, &c. should, therefore, frequently be opened, and washed: and should, if possible, have apertures communicating with the air abroad, lest the general air of the place be at any time affected by that which is noxious escaping from confinement.

XVIII. Feeders of swine tempt nurses, &c. to collect wash in these places; and preparers of *orchall* for dyers induce them to do the same by urine. Such procedure is highly dangerous.

XIX. Proximate standing water, particularly if laden with animal filth, may prove the source of serious mischief, and should never be suffered to remain.†

* The alterations daily going on in this city appear to be conducted with due attention to this truth. Whence London is approaching nearer and nearer to that degree of excellence of air, in favour of which every thing natural concurs.

† The air of the London-Hospital was benefited beyond expression by the removal of a nuisance of this nature some years ago.

XX. The

XX. The governors of hospitals, possessing contiguous land, should not allow it to be built upon, to the detriment of the air breathed by those of whose health and lives they are guardians. It can afford no consolation to a reflecting and humane person, that a favourite charity becomes amply endowed, and thence is enabled to admit a large addition of objects, when it is found to be a grave to its inhabitants.

XXI. If sewers, and water-courses, be not kept in good order, they may prove causes of great misfortune. Obstruction to the passage of what should pass away, will occasion an exhalation, by all the communications with the building, of the most dangerous kind. I have seen an unfavourable alteration in a few hours in the aspect of every fore, and the state of nearly every patient, in an hospital, from such a cause. A provision of back-water in regard to sewers, is, therefore, of the utmost moment.

XXII. Whatever may be theoretically supposed of the usefulness of trees, while under solar influence, through a power in their leaves to imbibe hurtful matter from the air, they cer-

tainly do harm in the neighbourhood of dwellings, when they prevent a free circulation of air, and intercept the beams of the sun : but if suffered to grow in such situations, for their shade, or beauty, their leaves ought to be carefully removed, as they fall in autumn, and not suffered to remain, and ferment with every sort of feculence they have collected.

XXIII. It is to be regretted that we have not more accurate conclusions, of practical application, concerning the effects of vegetation upon atmospheric air. There are valuable guides for experiments, and observations, upon the subject.* Plants might perhaps be made tests of the nature, and degree of impurity, of the air in various situations.†

XXIV. Patients of Hospitals are many of them confined, for a considerable time, altogether to their beds. These parts of Hospital-accommodation should, therefore, be carefully inquired into.

* *Hale ; Priestley ; Ingenboux ; &c.*

† It is curious to observe with what rapidity some plants grow in the wards of Hospitals.

XXV. The

XXV. The experience of many years, at the London-Hospital, has demonstrated the superior advantages of iron bedsteads, without testers. They afford no harbour for any thing hurtful or offensive, and are so constructed as not to be in the least cumbersome or inconvenient.*

XXVI. The flock that is generally employed for beds in Hospitals favours the production of insects, is retentive of the matter of animal exhalation, and what is infectious, and thence may vitiate the air and be dangerous. Experience at the London-Hospital has shewn that beds of straw are unexceptionable.†

XXVII. Woollen

* A useful addition to the iron bedstead has been made at the Small-Pox Hospital; by means of which, with a winch, the body may be raised with ease to any degree.

† The cheapness of straw renders the renewal of beds, often essentially necessary, of trifling consideration. — Feathers, and all animal, and villous substances, are generally improper for beds. But, if employed, the original purity of the article, and the means of preserving its sweetness, should be strictly regarded. Beds (the very material with which they are stuffed if possible), their clothing, &c. should be often exposed

fed

XXVII. Woollen substances, in curtains, coverlids, &c. excepting blankets, should be banished every Hospital in favour of linen; for the reasons assigned against the use of flock in beds.

XXVIII. The beds, clothing, &c. should be frequently exposed to the open air, in a piece of ground appropriated to that purpose.*

sed to the open air, in every season and situation : but in sickness the state of the bed becomes a matter of still more serious consideration. It is feared that beds are frequently the cause of hurt to the air, to the injury of the constitution, and to the augmentation of disease ; and that, sometimes, the effluvia they retain occasion and propagate the most dangerous complaints. At any rate straw beds are fittest in schools, and wherever many persons, particularly those that are young, sleep near to each other.

* A regulation at the London-Hospital. — “ That every fair
 “ day a convenient number of the beds, with the coverings,
 “ and curtains, of those patients that are able to sit up, be
 “ carried into the airing-ground ; there to be hung upon
 “ lines, beaten with poles, and exposed for some hours to
 “ the open air : that this be done at such times, and in such
 “ manner, as, if possible, to have all the beds, coverings,
 “ and curtains, in the Hospital, aired at least once in three
 “ months.”

XXIX. There

XXIX. There appears to be hardly sufficient attention paid to warmth in bed, from covering, during winter, in Hospitals. On which account warmth is sought from confinement of the air. Yet it is acknowledged, that free ventilation, with good fires, and warm clothing, in cold weather, is indispensable both for maintaining, and for recovering health.*

XXX. Patients, before admission into an Hospital, should be examined as to bodily impurity,

* The natives of warm climates, when in cold regions, are generally inattentive to this observation. Some years ago a considerable number of Africans were collected, and badly accommodated, at the eastern part of the town. A great mortality soon raged among them. Mr. Hanway interested himself in behalf of these poor fellows, as he did upon every occasion in which he could be serviceable to his fellow-creatures. Honoured be his memory! At the instance of my revered friend I visited them in their quarter. Never have I felt such a sensation as I then experienced. The stench was intolerable, and the state of the air such that I instantly became almost suffocated. No wonder: there was a large number crowded upon the floor of a small low room, without a window open, or a passage of any kind for the removal of foul, and the admission of fresh air. Their situation was changed, and the mortality soon ceased.

The

The head, and limbs, at least, ought to be cleaned and washed, before they are warded. But in cases in which the measure is not inadmissible, the whole body should be bathed in warm water. And, fully to prevent contamination of the air, their clothes should be fumigated with sulphur in a place set apart for the purpose, and thoroughly aired; or purified in an oven. These things might be done with ease, and certain advantage, according to rules that should be instituted for the performance of them.*

XXXI. In every Hospital, clean and well-aired wards should be reserved for the separation of such patients as, from delirium, contagious or putrid effluvia, or from any cause whatever,

* A regulation at the London-Hospital. — “ That all persons, intended to be received as patients in the Hospital, have their heads made clean, and their legs and feet washed, previously to being admitted; excepting cases in which the physicians, or surgeons, may judge such procedure to be improper: and that the washing and cleaning of the patients be conducted by the nurses and watchers of the wards into which they are, respectively, to be admitted, under the direction of the apothecary.”

might

might be hurtful to others; or such as themselves may require a better air for recovery.*

XXXII. Patients ill of fever should not, undoubtedly, lie near to those who are confined on account of fracture, wound, &c. It is, however, as clear, that patients with fever are of the last description that should be crowded together. The case, from its nature, demands more than ordinary attention to every circumstance relating to air. It is not meant to discuss medical points; but to state truths that carry conviction with them. The condition of patients of Hospitals in fever, so far as relates to number in a ward, requires, generally, to be mended.

* Attention to this rule at the London-Hospital has been productive of unspeakable benefit. — “ No Hospital that I have seen on the Continent is so well administered as the general Hospital of this city (Barcelona). It is peculiar in its attention to convalescents, for whom a separate habitation is provided, that after they are dismissed from the sick wards as cured of their diseases, they may have time to recruit their strength, before they are turned out to endure their accustomed hardships, and to get their bread by labour. Nothing can be more useful, nothing more humane than this appendage.” Vide a Journey through Spain by *Joseph Townsend*, A. M. Rector of Pewsey, Wilts; vol. i. p. 132. Vide §. i. and §. iv. in the Address of the *Samaritan-Society*.

XXXIII. There

XXXIII. There is, in general, too little regard to the airing of convalescents, and other patients able to walk abroad. Every one must be sensible of the sweetness of the air hanging in the clothes of a person just entered a room from a walk in a field. This fragrance is a proof of its salubrity. Why, then, are not its benefits pursued with more eagerness? Few Hospitals indeed have the advantage of a field, or garden: in those that have, do the governors employ it in a manner the most conducive to the relief, and comfort, of their patients?

XXXIV. Lime-whiting the cielings and walls once a year, in the summer season, at the London-Hospital, has fully confirmed what Mr. Howard has said in its commendation. But the manner of performing this work should be strictly observed. The surface is first to be moistened, and well scraped; and, when dry, is to be lime-whited with the mixture, *of lime and water only*, while in a state of ebullition: consequently no more should be mixed than can be used while hot.*

XXXV. Atmospheric

* Dr. C. Smith, in his excellent work on the jail-distemper, p. 180, speaks lightly of the effects of white-washing.

XXXV. Atmospheric air is necessary to existence in different ways: it is immediately requisite for

This method, however, of purifying cielings, and walls, must be useful, at least, in destroying insects and their nidus. But the process of washing with a boiling-hot mixture of lime and water, while it cannot fail of proving more effectual in this intention, may also, probably, tend to destroy the power of contagious matter, wherever it may be lodged in crevices, and parts, not exposed to currents of air. Nor is it difficult to conceive that this effect may take place, without assuming that the chemical properties of contagious animal effluvia are understood. For whatever be the nature of the matter in which the virulence is resident, admitting only that it be a compound (and what thing is not?) and allowing also that its power upon the body results from the accuracy of proportion, and state of combination, of its elementary parts; whatever will decompose, or, in other words, alter the proportion, or destroy the union of, its constituents, will change the matter, and, consequently, the property which it possessed. And that things of opposite chemical qualities may produce equally powerful effects, in this respect, no one, it is presumed, will doubt. Thus heat, and cold, acids, and alkalies, may all be efficient in destroying a contagious property. And, as we are entirely in the dark as to the true nature, and possible varieties of virulent effluvia, and miasmata; and, as it is likely that there is not the least analogy between the effects of things upon virus out of the body, and upon the living moving fibre, when the same virus has induced disease, we must rest entirely upon experiments

for respiration, without which the circulation of blood would cease, and death follow; the absorbing vessels of the skin, and lungs, imbibe from it what is required as a constituent of the blood; and, it receives, from the extremities of arteries in the same parts, whatever is proper to be expelled from the blood. As these opposite functions are continually going on together, it cannot be ascertained, with accuracy, what is the nature of the matter absorbed, or that expelled. But one thing appears to be pretty clearly made out, namely, that the principle termed Oxygene, or vital air, is that upon which these uses, and life, mainly depend.

experiments and observations, as to means of preventing the existence of deleterious effluvia, and as to what will alter their nature, or counteract their influence when produced. One remark must not be omitted, namely, that the air of a ward becomes *sensibly* more agreeable and refreshing by lime-washing. And the following observation of Dr. Smith is worthy of notice, viz. "Wherever a vapour can be distinguished by the smell, we have the demonstration of our senses for what a length of time, not only clothes, but furniture, and even the boards and walls of houses, will retain it." P. 46. — Dr. Hope, of Edinburgh, has given important evidence in favour of lime-whiting. — Vide *Howard* on Lazarettos, p. 118.

XXXVI. This

XXXVI. This principle of vital air readily unites, under different laws of attraction, with sundry things in nature; most of which may be considered as depraving it, relatively to animal life, in different modes, and degrees. But its union with the matter of heat is necessary to life.

XXXVII. The air, then, may have its purity and, consequently, its uses, affected in several ways: by what diminishes its immediate fitness for respiration; by what lessens its capacity to receive in due quantity that which is excreted from the lungs and skin; by what destroys, or abridges, that which should be received by the absorbents of the lungs, and skin; and by what, in its own nature, would prove noxious, if absorbed. In these ways also various combinations of mischief may arise.

XXXVIII. To the last distinction, animal effluvia must be referred. But infinite are the depravations of the air, under the heads stated, graduating, from the slightest degree in each, up to the power of producing death instantaneously.

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XXXIX. Infinite

XXXIX. Infinite too are the means that have the property of counteracting the production, and consequences, of things that would render air injurious. — OMNISCIENCE is every where manifest in the balancing effects of opposite causes, by which animal and vegetable existence is maintained.

XL. Putrid contagion may express the highest state of concentricity of virulence in matter; of which generic nature, far short in power upon the body, there may continually exist a large proportion of vapour, in the air of places in which human beings are crowded.

XLI. If such vapour have a general hurtful tendency, it must be particularly dangerous to persons labouring under disease, whose strength is reduced.

XLII. The foregoing observations have been directed to prevent, and remove, the evils that flow from this cause. And a free circulation of air, and cleanliness, have been particularly insisted upon as necessary in these intentions.

XLIII. But

XLIII. But there remain to be noticed those things that have been thought to possess the chemical property of meliorating the air in Hospitals, &c. and even of destroying contagion itself.

XLIV. Dr. C. Smith, in his observations upon means of purifying the air, does not seem to have made a sufficient distinction, between the effects of things that have a general tendency to obviate, and correct, the noxious quality of air in confined places, and those which are efficacious in destroying the very principle of contagion itself. Now, the agents that may be endowed with the latter power, may be also successful in the former intention: while those that are equal to the general correction of the air, impregnated with animal effluvia, &c. may be totally inadequate to the destruction of an actual contagious principle.*

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XLV. The

* Might not eudiometers be useful in determining the state of the air in Hospitals; and the efficiency of correctors? The method of ascertaining the presence of carbonic acid, by

XLV. The utility, therefore, of the acetous acid, in the above general intention, alone, or compounded with aromatics, camphor, &c. whether employed in vapour, or otherwise, should not be hastily disputed. The sanction of ages, and the general analogy of nature (for it is allowed to be refreshing to the sense) are in its favour.

XLVI. The vitriolic acid, separated by deflagration, from sulphur, destroys contagion; but it proves fatal to life, if inhaled.

XLVII. The experiments made by Dr. Smith seemingly prove, that nitrous acid, evolved from nitre by the addition of vitriolic acid, is equally effectual in destroying contagion, and can be safely taken into the lungs.*

by lime-water, may, perhaps, suggest means of demonstrating other combinations, by similar modes, with proper fluids, and apparatus.

* Mr. Keir's caution against the use of metallic, and inflammable, substances, in producing this acid, should be strictly attended to. — Vide Appendix to an account of an experiment on board the Union, Hospital-ship, by J. C. Smith, M. D. &c.

XLVIII. The

XLVIII. The same author is disposed to allow nearly equal excellence to muriatic acid, decomposed from sea salt, also by the vitriolic acid.

XLIX. The evolution, then, of concentrated acids, in a volatile or aeriform state, seems to be necessary, for any material effect upon an animal product, contained in atmospheric air.

L. But the above ingenious physician speaks exclusively of the benefits of the mineral acids, employed as mentioned; while, at the same time, it does not appear that the acetous acid has had a trial after the like manner.

LI. For the vapour of vinegar, elevated by heat, through lamps or other contrivances, contains a considerable proportion of water; so far from being diffused in the air in a concentrated state. Otherwise distilled vinegar would express the concentrated vegetable acid. This vapour may still be useful (§. XLIV. and XLV.) although not powerful enough to destroy contagion.

LII. To determine the utmost degree of potency of the acetous acid, and whether it be equal to the mineral acids against contagion, it should be tried after the same manner in which they have been employed, and under similar circumstances.

LIII. It has been repeatedly used at the London-Hospital for its general correcting effect. The *kali acetatum* (*sal diureticus*) being added to the vitriolic acid, the acetous acid becomes instantly separated from its alkaline basis, and presents itself, pungent, and refreshing, in a degree even beyond the fossil acids.

LIV. Happily no opportunity has offered of trying this acid, thus produced, in the case of putrid contagion: but so far as can be fairly judged, from comparative observations with the mineral acids, it is equal to them in correcting air highly offensive from mortified limbs, and putrid sores.

LV. The night-time, when doors, and windows, are closed, and contaminating vapours are largely produced, appears to be a proper season for employing their correctors. If the wards of
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an Hospital be fumed with acetous acid, in the manner described, at night, the whole Hospital will smell strongly of it the next morning: a clear proof of its ascendancy over every other kind of matter in the air of the place.

LVI. From considering the virtue of vinegar in mending the condition of the air, the inclination is natural to its effects upon sores, as they have been manifested, for several years, at the London-Hospital. They appear remarkably interesting to the army and navy.

LVII. The practice consists in the constant application of linen, wet with a mixture of one part of common vinegar, and two or three parts of fresh spring-water. (§. LXXVIII.)

LVIII. Distilled vinegar, diluted with river-water, will serve; but spring-water is better, and its freshness adds much to the efficacy of the remedy. No more, therefore, should be mixed than is required for immediate use, as the water should be instantly drawn from the well.

LIX. In the summer season; in hot climates; when putrescency is to be counteracted, locally, or in the surrounding air; or, when a

cuticle only is required upon an organised surface; this topical mode of treatment will deserve attention.

LX. No person of understanding, however, would apply even vinegar and water to a sore, without due advice, provided it could be obtained: for all effects are relative to circumstances, and much judgment is, therefore, often required to determine upon the safety of the most simple means.

LXI. The purest air, with cleanliness,* and all the comforts of bed, and dwelling, together with the help of medicine, will not prove sufficient for restoring health, or preserving life, without strict regard to articles of *diet*.

LXII. As many flagrant errors, concerning the means of nourishing the body, were continually committed during the late period of apprehended scarcity; and, as it is a subject upon the

* Mr. Howard has very properly recorded a complaint against all Hospitals, for not allowing a better provision of soap, towels, and other necessaries for keeping the body clean.

due consideration of which the recovery of patients of Hospitals very materially depends, it can hardly be considered as stepping out or the track of these observations, to offer a sketch of Nature's economy in human support.

LXIII. Abstractions, of various kinds, are continually making from the blood, by the arteries of the skin, lungs, intestinal canal, and of every part: by which continually-*exhausting* process, a work, as regularly *supplying* what is necessary in the heart, and blood-vessels, becomes required.

LXIV. The body is supplied with matter of recruit from two external sources: 1. The air; by the agency of the absorbing vessels of the skin, and lungs. (§. XXXV.) 2. From all those things that are articles of diet, and are taken into the stomach; by the same agency in the stomach, and alimentary canal.

LXV. The blood is *continually* supplied from its internal resources, by the absorbing vessels of every part. So that the arteries are constantly filling storehouses out of the blood-vessels; while the absorbents are regularly drawing supply from these reservoirs, according to the kind, and proportion, immediately wanted.

LXVI. As

LXVI. As there are only two external sources of supply, whatever kind of matter is found in any part, must have been, originally, a constituent of matter from one of those sources.

LXVII. If then, there be found water, earth, air, oil, gluten, salts, &c. in the fluid, and solid parts of the body, these things may all be considered as principles of nourishment, and this is so strictly the case, that if the vessels of the body could not obtain these several matters, in necessary proportions, from the air, and articles of diet, disease would follow.

LXVIII. But as the principles of oil, and gluten, have, by much, the most considerable share in the constitution of parts ; so those things that abound most with them are generally estimated as most nutritious ; not to mention water, and earth, so necessary, also, in ample quantity.

LXIX. Yet, notwithstanding what is taken into the stomach, the exertion of that organ, as well as of other parts, is indispensably necessary for drawing forth the principles of nourishment, in proper condition, and quantity.

LXX. Many

LXX. Many things, therefore, may be proper in diet, not in themselves nutritious, for exciting, and keeping up, the functions of the stomach; and for the share they have in dividing, and modifying, those particles that are in themselves nutritious, in order to their being better fitted for supply. Thus salt, spice, and spirit, may be useful in the former intention: and the gross, and earthy matter, contained in our food, in the latter.

LXXI. After all, no two persons are framed precisely alike; and every organ is, in some measure, directed according to a gradually acquired habit. The modes of living of persons in different situations, the consequence of long usage, cannot therefore be transferred, or changed, without pain, and danger.

LXXII. Philosophy itself cannot, with certainty, determine, *a priori*, the effects of the union of things of opposite qualities, either in, or out of the body. Experience, upon the whole, is the only sure guide in these matters.

LXXIII. Whether, then, want urge, or sickness claim our consideration, we must go to the school

school of experience and observation, for information how to proceed for the relief of our suffering fellow-creatures.

LXXIV. One of the principal articles of sustenance, and animation, of the labouring poor, in the metropolis, and its vicinity, is porter. By this their vigour is kept up under their various fatigues : whence the vessels of the body are brought to expect the friendly beverage, whenever exhausted. It becomes a comfort congenial with the nature and habit of these valuable fellow-creatures. When patients of Hospitals, they, generally, sooner or later, experience a state requiring the most generous support. The beer supplied in Hospitals is not sufficiently strong for recruiting the weakened powers. It is even sometimes productive of evil, instead of proving a benefit. If better liquor were granted, it is believed that medical endeavours would prove more successful ; and costly cordial medicines, of not so great efficacy, be less often necessary.

LXXV. The excellence of porter, particularly from the bottle, must be allowed by all who have attended to its effects, under many of the most dangerous, and distressing, circumstances.

But

But there are diseases, and states, in which wine is essentially necessary to life. To the honour of Government it is amply supplied to our brave soldiers, and sailors, who stand in need of its virtue. As a medicine of the most important kind, its goodness is a point of serious consideration; for, if it be bad, it may prove a bane instead of a saving cordial.* Ardent
 spirit,

* The genuineness of wines; the process of fining them, and the means ofedulcorating them, and otherwise correcting their defects, should be subjects of continual scrupulous inquiry. Arsenic, that has certainly been employed for white wines, in the former intention, and lead, in the latter, are things whose properties are too generally known to need explanation. The measure, also, of wine, retailed by the bottle, demands the attention of the legislature, and the magistrate. A gentleman took pity upon a miserable family, in which was one sinking in a nervous fever. He *indiscreetly* ordered, from a retailer of wine and other liquors, a dozen of red port. He was present when it was received — *twelve bottles, containing each barely a pint and a half (wine-measure) of the most abominable stuff!*

Among the societies, established for various excellent purposes, there is not one for improving the social condition of men, by offering to the consideration of the legislature, to magistrates, and the public at large, the means that observation and experience have pointed out, as best calculated to
 prevent,

spirit, in whatever manner diluted, however upon a few occasions instantaneously beneficial, can seldom, it is conceived, be safe in administration, or supply the place of wine, effectually. The greatest care, however, is necessary to prevent abuse in the use of wine: otherwise the patients, for whose service it is intended, may be robbed of their allowance, by those, in whose cases it might prove injurious; and by nurses, and watchers, who are, in general, too fond of strong liquors.

LXXVI. The milk served in Hospitals is often adulterated. When the importance of this article, in diet, and application,* is considered,

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prevent, and be safeguards against, fraud, and violence; and to promote order, and happiness. The sentiments of a body of men, of whose virtue, knowledge, and true patriotism, there could not be entertained a doubt, would, probably, have more weight with the world, than the opinion of any individual.

* Various farinaceous substances have been employed, as agreeable mediums of moisture, and warmth, in the form of poultice. Linseed-meal appears to answer, generally, for Hospital-practice, better than any other thing. Pollard, in the manner lately recommended, potatoe, &c. have been tried, without experiencing from them what has been expected.

ed.

one cannot but be surpris'd, that cows are not kept by those charities that possess neighbouring pasture-land. Where this cannot be done, a confidential person should sometimes see the milk taken from the animal, and brought directly to the Hospital. This practice, now and then repeated, would enable every one to judge of the purity of the milk, in a striking manner; and purveyors would, thence, become afraid of detection in any imposition.

LXXVII. Fresh vegetable juices, from their known effect in scurvy, must surely be proper in diet, in many of those cases of tendency to putrefaction which symptoms so frequently indicate. Should not recent vegetables, therefore, constantly form a part of one of the heads of an Hospital-regimen? Should there not also be, in the table of diet, one distinction consisting altogether of vegetables? Are fresh lemons, and

ed. There are states of parts in which the old and good cataplasm, of bread and milk, proves more soothing and useful than any other application whatever.

articles

articles of that description, supplied in due abundance? *

LXXVIII. The antiseptic virtue of spring-water is very great. It should be at hand in every part of an Hospital. To this end there should be pumps in convenient places, by which water might be raised from wells into reservoirs, whence it might be drawn by a pump into every ward. Thus patients might at all times have the benefit of a refreshing draught of pure water, instead of what has been forced into vats, with every kind of impurity, and, by long standing, has become putrescent, and unwholesome. All the drinks of patients should be prepared with spring-water. The dressings, &c. removed from sores, blistered surfaces, &c. should instantly be immersed in spring-water, and taken away. It should be used also for cleansing sore places, as endued with a property admirably suited to that purpose. (§. LVII.) The last rinsing of linen, &c.

* Mr. Howard complained that vegetables formed no part of Hospital-diet. If he were living he would renew the complaint. The same good man thought the allowance to Jews, in lieu of meat, was too little: it has been augmented at the London-Hospital to 4d. per diem.

in the laundry, should be with spring-water: the articles will thence be much sweeter when dry. In the fore-court, or some accessible open part of every Hospital, there should be a pump, with an iron ladle; together with a stone cistern, and conveyance aperture, with an adapted chained metal stopper. Out-patients might, by these means, have an opportunity of allaying their thirst, and moistening their feverish lips; and, also, of cleansing their gallipots, and bottles, ready for the reception of their medicines.*

LXXIX. Economy consists in the employment of such things only as are necessary; and the prevention of waste in the use of them.

* Springs are every where to be found in London. The water they afford is excellent. When the use of water in quenching fire is considered; when the peculiar property of spring-water for various purposes of life is reflected upon; when the benefits that would arise from watering the streets, occasionally, with streams from the well, and laying dust when troublesome, are duly weighed; one cannot but be surprised that there is not a pump in every street in the metropolis.

F

LXXX. In

LXXX. In the moment of scarcity, men seek for contrivances how to subsist. But the good things of PROVIDENCE should at no time be wasted. The bones of animals contain much matter affording nourishment; particularly a large portion of the purest butyraceous kind of substance, independently of the marrow itself. Some bones of boiled beef, without the marrow, were cut into pieces, for the readier extrication of the fat and gluten, and then boiled in water. There swam upon the surface, when cold, a cake of fat, of considerable thickness, nearly inodorous, and tasteless. This would prove an admirable substitute for butter, in puddings, &c. The liquor possessed no inconsiderable quantity of gluten, and required only some salt, spice, and farinaceous substance, as oatmeal, or pease, with, or without, the addition of fresh vegetable matter, as onion, &c. to make an excellent broth. Persons who collect, and prepare, bones, for extracting volatile alkali from them, break them into pieces upon a block with a hatchet. But it is conceived that an implement might be contrived much better calculated for that purpose in the kitchen.

LXXXI. The

LXXXI. The internal economy of an Hospital demands the unremitted attention of apothecary, steward, matron, &c. Their most watchful eye is necessary to keep those to their duty, for whose conduct they are, morally, responsible. The success of the design of the charity, with order and regularity, depends, *immediately*, upon the zeal, and fidelity, of these officers.*

LXXXII. Nothing more strongly impresses an idea of negligence than the want of neatness, and propriety, in the grounds, offices, &c. about an Hospital. No weed, dirt, or rubbish, should ever be seen: but every thing on the outside should express what the benevolent inquirer expects to find within. Herbs, and roots, for the patients, or family, or for the use of the Dispensary, should be cultivated in every bit of ground not devoted to the purposes of airing,

* A friend who visited the Hospital at Brussels a few years ago, observes, that the neat and decorous manner of serving provisions to the patients, and the order and precision with which the medicines were directed to them, in the Hospital of that place, were worthy the attention of those persons who direct the interior management of Hospitals in London.

and exercise. And the plats allotted to these latter uses should be kept in grass, duly mowed, and in good condition.

LXXXIII. Mr. Howard justly remarked, that the accommodations for warm, and cold, bathing, in Hospitals, were, in general, bad. Unnecessary expense, however, in these and all other matters, should be avoided. It operates against a prompt adoption of improvement: and simplicity should characterise every thing. The tin-flipper, so called from its figure, now commonly used for the femicupium, might, it is imagined, by very simple additions, be made to answer, also, for a vapour-bath, and for fumigation. The baths for men, and women, should be distant from each other.

LXXXIV. The danger, and alarm, that would arise from fire, happening in any part of an Hospital, should be guarded against. Every Hospital should be provided with an engine, of a portable size; and a sufficient number of buckets. It must be supposed that there is always a provision of water in such a place equal to an immediate call.

LXXXV. The

LXXXV. The surgery-beadle, and every nurse, in an Hospital, should be taught the use of the tourniquet. It cannot be necessary to add a word in support of this recommendation,

LXXXVI. The general reluctance to exertion, particularly to work not corresponding with notions of *duty*, prevents much good to the world. If the beadles, nurses, &c. in an Hospital, were to teach the use of the tourniquet to the patients, it could not fail of being the means of saving life, at some time, and perhaps in an instance of the greatest consequence to the country, and even to mankind in general.

LXXXVII. There appears to be nearly a total neglect in Hospitals as to the employment of the patients, in ways suitable to their various circumstances. Some kind of work would often prove salutary in the view of their recovery, and the perfect re-establishment of their health, as well as useful in its effects upon their habits. Beside the assistance they might frequently render in the house, and grounds, it is imagined they might be otherwise beneficially employed. The art of making lint, for instance, might prove

useful to themselves, and others, upon many occasions, after they have left the Hospital. Many of the men may become soldiers, or sailors, and might thence be enabled to assist their comrades when hurt in battle; and the women, thus qualified, might contribute to the relief of their suffering neighbours, and the support of their own families.

LXXXVIII. The scene of parting life should be veiled, as much as possible, from patients in the wards of an Hospital: and every funeral-preparation should be kept out of sight. The depression that such objects might occasion must at all times be dangerous to persons languishing in disease; and there are instances of a deadly damp to the spirits from such causes.

LXXXIX. The death of every patient in an Hospital should be announced, with solemnity, at the weekly board: and inquiries should be made, concerning the disease, or hurt, that occasioned the event.* Whether due attendance had

* Thus would the spirit, and wise provision, of the law be maintained. The office of *searcher* in parishes ought to be executed with more attention. A Divine, who is an ornament

had been given in the case ? Whether any consultation had been held upon it ? Whether the body had been examined, or opened ; and, if so, whether any thing satisfactory, or otherwise, had appeared upon the inspection ? and, whether the

ornament to his profession, upon seeing this note, made the following interesting remarks. — “ Many curious reasonings
 “ have been erected on the reports of parochial searchers ;
 “ from which reports the list of diseases, detailed in the
 “ bills of mortality, is compiled. The searchers are for
 “ ever mistaking symptoms for diseases ; and the appear-
 “ ances in the last stage of a malady, for the disorder itself.
 “ If mortification or convulsions terminate any one’s life,
 “ little regard is paid as to the disease which produced
 “ either ; but the party is generally reported to have died of
 “ mortification or convulsions, simply ; as if there had been
 “ no previous disease. Whatever wound, &c. may occasion
 “ a mortal fever of any kind, inflammatory, putrid, or
 “ nervous ; — the generic word *fever* stands for every thing
 “ in the searchers’ report. The term *decline*, in the searchers’
 “ vocabulary, serves to represent all those diseases which
 “ superinduce death by a gradual decay. Till I put our
 “ searchers upon making distinctions, all manner of persons
 “ who died 70 years old and upwards, were reported to
 “ have died of old age. I smile when I read fine arguments
 “ founded on the searchers’ reports ; than which nothing is
 “ more fallacious.” — Should not the legislature require of
 physicians, or surgeons, who are consulted in cases, to sign
 the reports of diseases and deaths ? Reports thus authenti-
 cated might prove highly useful to medical science.

physician, or surgeon, imputed blame to any one upon the occasion?

XC. It is against the solid happiness of mankind to encourage error and prejudice. No opportunity should be lost of making inquiries into the seats and nature of diseases: but every thing should be done to facilitate the performance of a duty, upon which the advancement of the healing-art greatly depends.*

XCI. Surely

* As prejudice against pathological inquiries becomes less, any supposed horror, and apprehension, concerning such pursuits, will, consequently, proportionally diminish. How is this to be reconciled to the practice of exposing the bodies of murderers, dissected? May not doubts be reasonably entertained of the effects of this remnant of barbarism, this violation of decorum in a civilized country? Does the practice tend to infuse humanity into the bosom, or to induce obedience to the laws? The crime of murder is the consequence of an ungoverned passion, or of ripened general depravity. In either case, if the dread of death, with ignominy, will not prevent the horrid deed, is the imagination of the surgeon's knife, after death, likely to prove successful? Is not the force of the pure dictates of religion, and morality, weakened by appeals upon fallacious ground of fear? The practice tends to discourage investigations of the most interesting nature, by derogating from the respect due to one of the most important branches of
natural

XCI. Surely the benevolent Mr. Howard was mistaken in one opinion.* To have fixed days for visitants to patients of Hospitals might indeed tend to order. But had that philanthropist thought upon this subject, with his accustomed tenderness to the circumstances of people in sickness, and distress, he, probably, would never have proposed absolute refusal of admittance, at any time, to those whom duty, affection, or friendship, might lead to the gates of an Hospital. Shall a parent be denied the satisfaction of seeing a child, more dear on account of its misfortune: and shall not the child receive parental comfort? Shall a son, or daughter, be driven cheerless from the door, uncertain of the state of a loved father, or mother? Shall not the

natural knowledge. Let the exposition of the bodies of murderers be continued, with all possible regard to decency, *without dissection*; and let the ceremony be awfully impressive. Suppose the cord were still to be about the neck; upon the breast, a label, denoting the crime; and, that a person were frequently to exhort spectators, aloud — *to take warning from the dreadful example before them; to obey the commands of God; and to reverence the laws!*

* Vide Howard, on Lazarretos, p. 81.

critical changes of disease be considered, and the wish, or will, of persons, dangerously ill, be allowed to be expressed, while the mind is equal to the task? Shall not patients have permission to communicate with those who may be disposed to allay the anguish of their hearts, by softening the distresses of their wretched families? Shall not even the last farewell be granted? In every Hospital a discreet, resident, officer should superintend visitations. This matter should not be left to the conduct of persons who are, perhaps, unfeeling, ignorant, and mercenary. The ordinary rules of Hospitals respecting visitants, if observed, still allowing *discretionary* power to a proper officer, will always be sufficient for preserving peace, regularity, and order.

XCII. The conduct of the managers of Hospitals, &c. respecting strong liquors, was one of the principal subjects of concern to Mr. Howard. It is with deep regret that it must be acknowledged, the evils complained of, on this head, are not fully, and generally, corrected. No patient should be permitted to take any kind of spirit, or fermented liquor, not allowed by the physician, or surgeon. No nurse, &c. should be suffered to go into any public-house; as the porter, granted them with their meals, should

should be brought at stated times. No publican, or servant of any publican, should presume to go into any ward, or even beyond the observation of the door-porter. No visitor to any patient should have the privilege of treating with liquor any patient, nurse, &c. on any account whatever. A door-porter should see to these regulations, with rigid exactness: and any unfaithfulness on his part, or disregard to the rules by any one, should be *certainly* followed by exemplary correction.

XCIII. Many are the interesting relations, and points of view, in which intelligent and good men will regard students of Hospitals. Who can be unconcerned about the individual success and happiness of so considerable a number of young men; or insensible of the solicitude, and anxious hopes, of their parents, and friends? When the health, and lives, of the patients of Hospitals; of the brave defenders of their country, in the army, and navy; of every one in the community; are considered as dependent upon the proper employment of the hours of these pupils in the healing-science; nothing, it will appear, ought to be omitted that can properly engage their attention, and further their improvement. Nor ought the moral habits
of

of those, who are to hold such important situations in life, to be regarded with indifference.

XCIV. It is conceived, that in every Hospital there should be a library for the use of the students, &c. under regulations adapted to the ends proposed. This might be raised, and supported, by contributions from the medical officers, and the pupils; and by the means of presents. It should consist of the most useful works in all the branches of medicine; and be kept in a room to be allowed by the charity.*

XCv. Let

* Extract from " Rules respecting pupils of the London-Hospital."

" The pupils are required to pay the strictest regard to
 " all the laws, and orders, of the Hospital; of which each
 " has a copy delivered to him on his admission. They are
 " earnestly desired to be careful that none of the medicines,
 " or applications, of the Hospital, be wasted, or misap-
 " plied. They are to begin to dress the patients at eleven
 " in the forenoon, daily; excepting those under the care of
 " the surgeon, whose day it is to visit the Hospital, and such
 " are to remain until the surgeon has directed for them.
 " They are particularly required to dress, and dismiss, the
 " out-patients, as soon as possible. In their respective
 " weeks

XCV. Let it be suggested to the physicians, and surgeons, of the Hospitals in London, as a step that might extend their sphere of usefulness, to hold a general meeting, at least once a year, for the purpose of discussing subjects under the following heads, viz. inventions; improvements; discoveries; observations upon

“ weeks of residence, as house-pupils, they are to take
 “ down the name, case, and date of admission, of every
 “ one received, either as an in, or out, patient: and are to
 “ continue to dress the patients, they have, respectively, so
 “ admitted. The pupils resident in the Hospital are to con-
 “ fine themselves strictly to what is required in their situa-
 “ tion; and, on no account whatever, are both to be absent
 “ at the same time: they are always to have in readiness
 “ tourniquets, needles, ligatures, and other necessaries, for
 “ restraining hæmorrhage, and splints, &c. for immediate
 “ assistance in fractures. The surgeons cannot sign a certifi-
 “ cate for any one who has not regularly, and faithfully,
 “ attended the duties of the Hospital.” — In the year
 1792, an anniversary-meeting of the gentlemen educated at
 the London-Hospital was established. It is intended to cul-
 tivate a knowledge of the benefits, and to advance the inter-
 est, of that charity; and to promote good-will, honour, and
 rectitude, among practitioners in the different branches of
 medicine.

epidemics;

epidemics; cases of cancer;* bite of mad dog, or, its consequence, hydrophobia; tetanus; aneurism; dangerous, and fatal, effusions of blood, from rupture, or wound, of vessel;† and extraordinary occurrences of every kind; what methods were followed in the cases; and what would be proper upon similar occasions, in future; in the view of relief in diseases that have baffled art, and of more safe, or certain, remedies in others.

XCVI. Ignorant, and misinformed, persons, should be set right concerning consultations. On many occasions of chirurgical operations in Hospitals, formal consultations cannot possibly be held, consistently with regard to life, to which every consideration must bend. In cases of

* The inefficacy of the external application of carbonic acid, and of vital air, in cancer, has appeared clearly in several instances.

† The experiments in transfusion, performed by the able and ingenious Professor Harwood, of Cambridge, encourage a hope, that, at some time, it may be proved, that the exhausted heart, and vessels, of the human subject, may be effectually replenished, and re-actuated, by blood from animals.

herniæ,

herniæ,* an operation is either *immediately* required, or the critical moment must be seized, when it ought to be performed. Cases of fractured skulls; of compound fractures, demanding amputation; of sudden wound, or rupture, of arteries; admit of no delay. Let it not, then, be supposed, by any one, that there is not the greatest care of limb, as well as of life, in the conduct of surgeons to Hospitals. — But consultations should be held *on all cases of danger*, in which time will admit of the measure. In this consists one of the essential advantages of an Hospital-establishment.

XCVII. When the number of Hospitals in this town, and the sum of patients received by them, in the course of a year, are considered, they must be regarded seriously as

* There have occurred many instances of this description of case, through injury from the shortness of posts in the streets, and the neglect of painting them white. The framers of municipal regulations should, in their humanity, attend to this remark. A representation of this evil was several years since made to the Commissioners of Pavements at Guildhall.

objects of civil polity.* The patients of Hospitals are, mostly, extremely ignorant, as well as poor ; and, therefore, very liable to be led astray to the hurt of society. Ought not their *particular* situations then to be frequently inquired into ; and admonition, and counsel, to be administered accordingly ? By what expedient could so great a number of the lower order of people be brought together, to learn what they owe to God, and their neighbour ? Shall the opportunity through sickness, at all times favourable to sober impressions, of mending so considerable a proportion of the community, and conducing to the general peace, and security, be lost ? Are zeal, and industry, tokens of truth, and sincerity ? Have men reason to complain of disorder, and the danger of person, or property, while the means of preventing depravity, and crimes, are neglected ? The reading of prayers, and preach-

* About 1600 persons are constantly in the seven Hospitals of the metropolis, *viz.* St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, the London, the Westminster, St. George's, and the Middlesex. Allowing the average-time of residence of each patient to be one month, the number admitted into the different Hospitals, *communibus annis*, will come out about 20,000 : which tallies nearly with the reports of those bodies.

ing, to a congregation of not more than a sixth part of the inhabitants of an Hospital, and that but seldom, ought to be regarded as a part only of the offices in a system of comfort and improvement. Governors, who are divines, should attend to these matters, so much their duty to consider. Sagacious and just men would esteem Hospitals as useful national establishments, if persons were congregated in them, for the sole purpose of receiving instruction how to demean themselves as good members of society.*

XCVIII. In considering the management of Hospitals, one is forcibly struck with the importance of attending strictly to the characters of those persons who constitute the Committee, or

* An admirable writer, in a work of the greatest utility, after a display of the numerous charitable establishments, thus expresses himself: " Reflecting on these various laudable
 " institutions, unparalleled in point of extent as well as
 " munificence, the mind is lost in astonishment and wonder,
 " that greater and more extensive benefits have not arisen
 " to the inhabitants of the metropolis, not only in im-
 " proving their morals, but in shielding the lowest orders
 " of the people from that extreme misery, and wretched-
 " nefs, which is no where exhibited in so great a degree
 " as in London." Vide a Treatise on the Police of the
 Metropolis; by *P. Colquhoun, Esq. &c.* p. 411.

G

Board,

Board, that directs all the proceedings. It should consist of men who are disposed to be actively serviceable; who have spirit, and discernment, to embrace propositions for correcting abuses and defects; who are superior to motives of interest, or the gratification of any mean passion; who, in short, have no object at heart but the success, and faithful administration, of the charity. Nothing can more strongly express folly, and illiberality, or indeed more plainly indicate some kind of interested bias, than a dislike to medical men in the counsels of these bodies. It has been observed, that the credit, and interest, of physicians, and surgeons, are involved in all the proceedings of an Hospital; that its prosperity is their elevation, its depression their loss, and regret: it may be added, that the medical officers are the proper *ultimate* judges of things in an Hospital; and, therefore, may be allowed to have some judgement of their *primary* fitness.

XCIX. Women are better judges than men upon many occasions in the concerns of an Hospital; particularly in what relates to the womens wards, the kitchen, and laundry, to beds, linen, &c. Governesses should, therefore, be invited,

invited, either by nomination as a supplementary committee, or otherwise, to oblige the charity with their observations, and advice.

C. The visitors of Hospitals should conduct their visitations with such a degree of ceremony as might impress upon all around them a proper idea of their authority, and intention; and in such a manner, as that full and faithful representations might be obtained. Accordingly the nurses, &c. should be absent when inquiries are made of the patients, as to the conduct of every one towards them: and, on the other hand, the nurses should be examined out of the wards, as to the behaviour of the patients under their care. Visitations should be made at uncertain periods; and, sometimes, even during the night-season, with due regard to decency, and the quiet of the patients.

CI. The trustees of Hospitals, having large funds, have proportional responsibility: they should, therefore, call upon all men for suggestions how to act, so as to improve, and extend, their designs; according to the end, whatever it be, for which they were created by their founders. Accordingly, might there not be properly annexed to Hospitals, having competency,

ample buildings, in airy situations, out of town; for the reception of convalescents; incurable lunatics, if there be a provision for objects of that description; and other persons, in whose circumstances, quiet, space, and pure air, might be deemed particularly proper? The state of the patients in the Mother-Hospital would be mended, in the degree of the abstractions made from it to the country-appendage.

CII. Nothing is more improper, and disgraceful, in a charitable body, than the admitting of men to vote upon occasions of elections, or to have voices in courts and committees, immediately upon becoming members. By such means the dearest interests of a design are resigned into the hands of persons, perhaps sordid, and intriguing in principle, and certainly ignorant and inexperienced, as to what is good for the charity. The narrow, and detestable policy, of sacrificing real, and lasting, benefit, for the sake of a little gold, poured in upon an extraordinary occasion, cannot be supported by a shadow of argument. The defection of excellent men, old and steady supporters of an Hospital, disgusted at measures that put reason, propriety, and merit, at defiance, can never be compensated

fated by the temporary favour of those who move only as personal interest directs them.*

CIII. The receipt of fees, and pecuniary considerations on any account, from patients of Hospitals, ought to be abolished. It is like the cruel practice of demanding money of poor debtors, on their entrance into prison, after being torn from their homes, and their families, wanting bread. Will not nurses, watchers, &c. *exact all they can*, if allowed to receive *any thing*? Will they not be disposed to treat with indifference those patients that are not able to purchase their favour? Will they not, probably, endeavour to get such unfortunate persons dismissed from their wards, in the hope of advantage from successors? Think on these things, friends of the distressed, and suffer not those,

* At the Marine-Society, persons, qualified by paying the sums required, are proposed at one general court, and elected at the next. This is the best method of admitting members to a charitable institution. The following law of the London-Hospital is worthy imitation: "No annual Governor, or Governess, shall vote at any election, who has not been a Governor or Governess one year, the election-day inclusive." This law would, however, be better if "annual" were expunged.

who are appointed to dispense your mercies, to blast them in their hands, and frustrate your pure intentions. The servants of Hospitals should be allowed proper salaries for their services, and not be left, in any degree, dependant upon the objects of the charity.

CIV. Hospitals, and other institutions belonging to the public, whatever be their endowment, should be conducted according to laws, and regulations, formed by the whole body of Governors, with strict regard to the intentions of the founders. When a society, intended for general benefit, becomes wholly independent of public opinion, and favour, there will, generally, arise a disposition in the members to contract the number of the body; and, by such a conduct, to increase the patronage of their situation. Many evils will flow from this cause. Private interest will become the ruling principle of action; and the expectations of science, and humanity, be more and more disappointed. Indolence, neglect, and corruption, are too manifest in many foundations, originally planned for the noblest purposes.

CV. Attention being paid to the cardinal object, AIR, Hospitals possess advantages, adapted to

to the conditions of sick and hurt persons, superior to what can be equalled by many situations in life. Informed people should, therefore, discourage the prejudices that are sometimes entertained by the lower order, against these useful establishments: in support of which they will not unfrequently resort to invention.*

Upon complaints of misconduct in any one concerned in a public charity, inquiry ought to be made into the *truth* of the allegation: lest the body, or even an individual, should suffer unjustly; or, lest the body should sustain an injury, while individuals only are to blame. These considerations, and others that naturally arise from them, should make men exceedingly cautious in drawing conclusions against the credit, and interest, of public charities. If the design of an institution be good, and the principles of its conductors pure, the errors or offences of officers, or servants, should be regarded as temporary and remediable evils, arising from the nature of things; and not as affording apology to benevolent men, for dereliction, or denial of countenance and support.

* Many curious instances of fabricated stories might be mentioned, if necessary.

CVI. Now, suppose an Hospital were to be planned, and erected, upon principles of reason and experience. In the first place, it is conceived, a Committee should be appointed, to draw from every source of information whatever might be useful in the undertaking. Consequently every place should be visited, every book and person consulted, likely to throw light upon the subject. A situation being next fixed upon, architects, and surveyors, should be required to plan and execute *according to a determined system*: and elegant simplicity might grace an edifice that, in every part, should express an undeviating attention to the ends designed.

CVII. Most of the following observations are derived from Mr. Howard: they will, therefore, always be entitled to consideration.*

The situation of the building should be a little elevated: out of a town: the soil gravelly, or, at least, dry: near a river, or stream of water: convenient for drains, and sewers: the surrounding country free from wood, marsh, and stand-

* Vide Howard on Lazarettos, p. 141.

ing water: ground to be possessed to an extent that will always be a security against detriment to the air by buildings, obnoxious manufactories, &c.

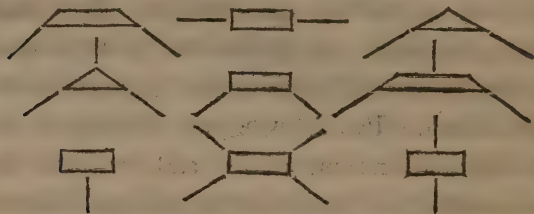
CVIII. In the structure, curvilinear figures to be avoided: for the air moves in strait lines, and is resisted and reflected, like other bodies in motion. A square not to be adopted; for the air will at times be stagnant in the inclosed area. Parallel wings are improper; for they will resist currents of air, and, in some degree, confine it. Thus circular, and quadrilateral figures; and trilateral ones, with parallel sides, are exceptionable. High walls, and *close* investments of every kind, are pernicious.*

CIX. The lines annexed may suggest ideas of figures that may suit different spots with the

* The effect of impure air upon the countenance is remarkable. It is different from that occasioned by want of exercise, bad diet, or any defined disease. Let any one look at the pale, dim face of a person who has been long confined within the walls of a Prison; and he will pray of Heaven, to move with humanity the heart of every creditor. — The inhabitants of workhouses, from the general inclosed state of those places, acquire some degree of the same wanness of aspect.

greatest

greatest advantage. The wings, it will appear, are all divergent : and, in each design, the hall ; chapel ; dispensary ; consulting-rooms ; surgery ; committee, and court-rooms ; steward's office ; and apartments for the resident-officers, are proposed to be in the central part.



CX. In the plan, the building for patients to consist of one floor only ; or not to exceed two floors. The wards to be not less than fifteen feet high. As much space to be assigned to each patient, as answers to an ordinary private bed-chamber. The men, and women, to be in opposite parts. The disposition of windows, doors, &c. to be such as will secure currents of air in every direction.* Some of the windows

* *Light*, and *air*, accompany each other, unless the latter be obstructed by substances that will allow the former to pass through them, such as glass, &c. Darkness, therefore, in passages, and other parts of a building, produce an unfavourable impression, as to the healthiness of the place.

to open from the ceiling to the floor. If of one floor only, openings to be in the ceiling, in domes or otherwise, at proper distances. If of two floors, the like openings in the ceiling of the upper wards; and, also, capacious funnels from the ceiling of the lower wards, continued through the upper ceiling. If a double range of wards, openings, from the ceiling to the floor, in the parting-wall, with doors or sliding shutters, for the occasional transmission of air through both wards. Two doors to each ward; one of them to be iron-latticed. Stair-case of stone. Fire-place in the middle of the longer side of each ward. Vaults, with water-closets, on the outside of the wards. Airy rooms, and ground, for convalescent patients. The chemical elaboratory detached: and all the offices out of the house. The kitchen lofty; and, if in the house, to have a funnel from the ceiling into the air. A refectory for servants; as the kitchen should not be an eating-room.

CXI. In addition to the many proper laws that might be extracted from the codes of the several Hospitals, ordinances should be made to the following effect. The apothecary should be well founded in chemical knowledge. He should also understand botany; to be able to determine
upon

upon the identity of plants: and, also, experimental philosophy; to be competent to direct electrical, and other philosophical operations. All the chemical medicines should be prepared in the Hospital-elaboratory: and pupils should have the privilege, under proper regulations, of seeing the processes.* Divine service should be performed in every ward at least once in a week; beside prayers, and sermon, in the chapel, on Sunday. Every patient should be visited by the physician, or surgeon, daily: or by the assistant; who, on that account, should attend the Hospital frequently, in order to learn the nature of the cases, and the treatment adopted in them. The Hospital pharmacopeia should be revised once in three years; for all possible benefit from discoveries, and improvements.† No Governor

* According to the present pharmaceutic system, practical chemistry will shortly be understood by only a few persons. This ignorance of the operative part of chemical science must prove adverse to the interest of the community.

† If the dispensaries of the several Hospitals were to be revised at short, and certain, distances of time, they might prove serviceable in the revisings of the London-Pharmacopeia. And, with all deference to the College of Physicians, it is conceived, that their work ought to be submitted to correction at stated, and not very distant, periods.

should

should perform any work, or supply any article, for his own profit : or, at least, it should be ordained, that Governors should have no vote or voice, in any court or committee, for one whole year from the time of their having done any work, or supplied any thing, by contract, or otherwise.*

The committee, appointed by general court for directing the concerns of the charity, should be distinguished into sub-committees, under the following titles ; viz. finance, ways and means ; bye-laws, and correspondence ; internal economy ; chapel ; medical ; building. Subjects falling under these heads should be referred accordingly ; and be considered by the sub-committee, before they are deliberated upon by the whole board. The members of the sub-committees, agreeably to such a mode of proceeding, should, severally, hold themselves bound to attend, in a special manner, to matters within their expressed different considerations ; while, at the same time, every one should fully and freely tender his sentiments, and vote, upon every question, when generally to be decided upon.

* Some years since, a man proposed, to the committee of an Hospital, to become a Life-Governor, provided they would allow him to do a certain work for the charity : the proposal, it may be supposed, was rejected with indignation.

CXII. The anniversary, general meetings of the Governors of Hospitals, should be considered; as in commemoration of founders,* and benefactors; as affording opportunity, from time to time, of explaining the good that has been done; and of stating the *true* circumstances of the charity, in every particular. No art ought to be employed upon such occasions: it ill accords with the simple dignity of pure charity. At all times, it will be found the best policy, to tell the truth, and let men judge for themselves, as to the election of objects for their munificence. Thus would charity flow easy in every channel; and the bestower, and the receiver of benefits, be satisfied.

* Records of the instruments, and ways, by which great works are brought about, are sometimes valuable. The LONDON-HOSPITAL was founded, principally, by *John Harrison*, the first surgeon to that charity.



PROPOSITIONS:

FOR PROMOTING THE
USEFULNESS AND PROSPERITY OF

HOSPITALS,

AND OTHER

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

PROPOSITION I.

For triennial parochial Sermons, and Collections from House to House, in London, and within seven Miles thereof; for the Benefit of Hospitals, and other charitable Institutions, in the Metropolis.

WHEN the King, guided by humanity, and sentiments dignifying the nation, directed sermons, and collections from house to house, for the benefit of the French emigrant clergy, the spirit of the people shone forth, and British benevolence appeared in genuine splendour.

The total sum collected upon that occasion was very considerable; and demonstrated an effectual method of appeal to the understanding, and sensibility, of Englishmen.

It has been observed, in one of the preceding pages, that Hospitals improve the disposition of mankind by cultivating charity: but every act that moves the heart to a deed of charity promotes the exercise of the best principle in our nature, and contributes to render it habitual.

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By clothing, and feeding, and sheltering, the stranger, we have learned a mode of relieving our own distressed brethren.

It is a lamentable truth, that some of our most estimable public charities have, within a few years, been so reduced in funds, as not to be able to answer, fully, the pressing calls of distress.

The nobly-conceived appropriation of a share of the collections made at the annual music-meetings;* and, lately, some large and well-directed bequests, have greatly improved the condition of a few Hospitals: still, there are some that remain in less fortunate circumstances.

It is, therefore, proposed — That there be sermons, and collections, in every parish in London, and within seven miles thereof, precisely as conducted in behalf of the emigrants; for the benefit of those Hospitals that stand in need of assistance. That the application of the

* The London-Hospital has not yet received any benefit from this source.

money so collected be vested in Trustees, consisting of the Representatives in Parliament for London, Westminster, Middlesex, Surrey, and Essex; at a meeting consisting of not less than five members. That these sermons, and collections, be triennial only; as best calculated for success from the measure, as often as repeated: and that, when the Hospitals have been by this, or other means, so far assisted as that they may safely rely upon their funds and subscriptions, and probable donations, and bequests, for support, that, *then*, the product of the said collections be applied, by the Trustees aforesaid, to the help of other descriptions of public charities, that shall rank highest in the order of utility; respect being had to the report, and recommendation, from the meeting of representatives of public charities, in case such meeting be formed.

If representatives from the principal charitable bodies should be determined upon, and the proposition for sermons and collections should not before be adopted, it would be a proper subject for discussion at their first meeting; and their recommendation of the plan, if approved, could not fail of having weight.

If this proposition should be favourably received, there can be no doubt of such countenance from government, as might be necessary to insure its success.

As to the sum that would probably be collected, it could not fail of proving sufficient to interest the charities in the measure. There are 146 parishes within the bills, and about 38 out of that limit, within seven miles of London: in all 184.* Suppose the sum collected in each parish

* Parishes within the circumference of seven miles round London-Bridge, not included in the Bills of Mortality :

Battersea,	Hampstead,	Parson's Green,
Beckenham,	Hornsey,	Peckham,
Bow,	Hoxton,	Stockwell,
Bromley,	Kenington,	Streatham,
Brompton,	Kennington,	Sydenham,
Camberwell,	Knightbridge,	Tottenham-Court,
Chelsea,	Lee,	Tottenham-Cross,
Clapham,	Lewisham,	Tooting,
Deptford,	Layton,	Walworth,
Dulwich,	Mitcham,	Walthamstow,
Edmonton,	Newington,	Wandsworth,
Fulham,	Newington-Butts,	West-Ham.
Greenwich,	Pancras,	

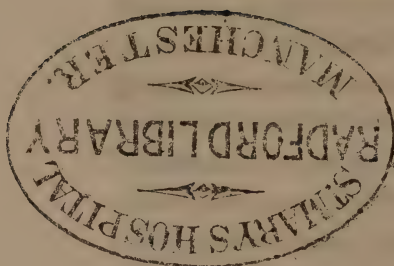
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parish to be averaged at £30, the total would be £5520: £520 being carried to the head of expenses, such as printing, &c. there would remain £5000. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and Guy's, Hospitals, not needing such aid, there would, then, be £1250 once in three years, for each of the other four Hospitals, namely, the London, St. George's, the Middlesex, and the Westminster.

If objection to this proposition should be made by any one interested in a charity not 'proposed *immediately* to be benefited by it; be it observed, that such charity, if of public utility, would, it is presumed, in due time receive a share of benefit from the undertaking. As to the sermons for those excellent establishments, parish-schools, it can never be imagined that they would suffer by sermons, and collections from house to house, once in three years

This number appears small, but the reason is, there are many places both within and without the bills, which, though large, are but hamlets:—for instance: Stratford is in the parish of West-Ham; Homerton, Clapton, Dalston, and Cambridge-Heath, are hamlets of Hackney; and Stepney has several hamlets.

only. On the contrary, by powerful and well-directed arguments in favour of institutions beneficial *to every one*, the spirit of charity is kept alive, and men are animated to do good every way in their power.



PROPOSITION

PROPOSITION II.

For appointing Representatives of the several Hospitals, and the other principal public Charities, in the Metropolis ; and Meetings, accordingly.

THE ultimate object of every charitable institution should be, to enable men to employ their powers, and faculties, so as to provide for their own wants ; whence general society would be benefited : for the advantages of the community arise from the application of the talents and labour of its members ; consequently, to increase the sum of the proper exercise of both, is to add to the common stock of the means of happiness.

There is no such state as that of absolute independance ; and there ought not to be that of absolute dependance, unless in cases of corporeal, or intellectual, infirmity ; when it cannot be productive of bad effects. It is a pernicious error, to impress upon the minds of the poorer members of the community, that they are to live through the wisdom, industry, and bounty of others.

A sense of absolute dependance depraves the moral character, and occasions the greatest evils. If any one feel that he possesses not understanding, nor ingenuity, to gain the means of subsistence, he will act like a subordinate SPECIES of creature, will possess a mendicant spirit, will lose all energy of mind and body, will set little value upon the virtues, will contract habits more and more degrading to intellect and bodily endowment, till at length the whole man becomes resigned to sloth, folly, and wickedness.

The charitable institutions have been classed, by some persons, among the causes of that seeming defect of provident disposition, often, of late years, noticed with concern. But these establishments have been the *consequences*, and not the *causes*, of poverty and distress. This is a distinction of singular importance: for it proves, that public charitable bodies are public benefits; and it points to the origin of many of the calamities that immediately befall labouring people, the effects of which are felt by all ranks in life.

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The truth is, such people have as much intelligence, and as much bodily strength, as heretofore ; but, allowing equal exertions in the lower offices of life with former times, they cannot rise above dependance : the consequence is, their minds shrink from ineffectual trials to obtain something against the misfortunes to which men are incident ; and they become resigned objects of charity, in their various distresses.

To make home comfortable is the first principle of domestic polity. Would a man leave his own peaceful dwelling, his wife, his children, and all the comforts of surrounding circumstances that habit has established, and become the patient of an Hospital, if poverty did not compel him to the measure ? Is it likely that men should have satisfaction from the reflection that such must be their situation in sickness, and that, thence, they may be regardless of what the day may bring forth ? Will a mother cease to be vigilant, sober, and economical, and abandon the care of her children, and husband, because the hand of charity awaits her in sickness, and distress ? Will she reflect with complacency on the prospect of leaving them,

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at some period, to mourn the dangers of her absence ?

Will parents be unmindful of their first duty, and make no provision for their offspring, because humanity has reared many establishments for the relief of infant misery ?

Is a daughter neglected, and left to the arts of betrayers, because a retreat is provided for female penitents ?

No : the many charitable establishments that grace this metropolis have been suggested by existing evils ; and express the judgement as well as benevolence of their founders. And they are become so connected with the order of things among the indigent part of the people, that they may be considered, in some measure, as indexes of the kinds and degrees of their reigning distresses. For the friends of human nature, who possess the means of lessening adversity, have, at most times, had some kindred spirit, a Hanway, or a Howard, to watch the growth of evil, and point out means of relief. Particular inquiry into the origin of the principal public charities would fully establish these assertions.

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In regard to Hospitals, it may indeed be observed, that, on account of accidents, sudden and extraordinary occurrences of disease, lunacy, &c. these establishments must be necessary, in large cities, under the most happy circumstances of the labouring part of society.

The advantages that would result to the state, from a mended condition of the poor, are in number and magnitude beyond expression.

How is it with men of all conditions? When they find their best endeavours to surmount difficulties fruitless, do they not become indifferent to the concerns of life, careless of their homes, their persons, and families, devoted to drinking and pursuits calculated to dissipate uneasy thought, till at length they are fixed in habits of idleness, and become nearly useless in society?

But let the mind be satisfied with the fruits of its joint exertions with the labour of the body, and it instantly becomes serene, the heart is glad, every thing catches the charm, and industry, sobriety, frugality, order, cleanliness, health, and moderate competency, are the blessed consequences.

Interwoven

Interwoven as our public charities are in the system of human concerns, particularly in these great cities, they claim continual attention ; and merit the watchful care of the representatives of the nation.

The several parts of this eleemosynary frame, formed by men at different periods of time, as relative to the varying circumstances of wretchedness, require minute and frequent examination, in order to render them equal to the ends for which they were distinctly designed ; to promote their individual, and general, prosperity ; to make them contribute to the advancement of science, whence they might derive reflected benefit ; and to link and harmonize them more completely into a system, the simplicity and order of which would express its share in the felicity of mankind.

Our public charities are monuments of the most amiable part of the British character. And, so concatenated are all good things, doubtless we owe many of the national blessings we have long enjoyed to CHARITY. The people of surrounding nations are thence impressed in a manner favourable to the general cause of humanity, and to the credit and interest of the

the people that set the example of good works.

Let then every step be taken that can lead to so great an object, as that of rendering the public charities as highly beneficial as possible.

Accordingly, let men who have information as to the particular circumstances of the different charitable bodies, who have leisure, and are disposed to bend their minds to the melioration of the condition of their less fortunate brethren, meet, and confer upon the measures likely to conduce to an end so truly honourable to our nature.

Conformably to this idea it is proposed for consideration :

1st. That there be annually chosen by the Governors of the Hospitals, and other principal public charities, respectively, two or more discreet persons, well-informed in all matters relative to the charity, to represent it, and do certain things herein-after expressed.

2d. That the representatives so chosen do meet once, or oftener, in the year. That they
appoint

appoint a Secretary : and that they defray their own expenses.

3d. That they visit all the Hospitals, &c. represented : and that, at such visitations, the representatives of the place visited, do point out every improvement, and thing, judged worthy of notice, and imitation.

4th. That, at the meetings, there be taken into consideration, the distresses of the poor, and what experience, in the different bodies, has indicated as necessary farther to be done for their relief : That it be considered how far the several charities can contribute to each other's benefit ; and to the grand scheme of alleviation of misery, of *every* description : That all improvements, and also defects, and suggestions for improvements, be weighed, as to the practicability and propriety of their application : That the periods of holding the anniversary festivals be considered ; in order that they may not clash with each other, and thus prove mutually injurious to the bodies : That all other matters be deliberated upon that appear likely to be interesting to the charities.

5th. That

5th. That the representatives do report, to the Governors of the charities, the result of their consultations, for the forming of such resolutions thereon as may appear necessary.

6th. That the first meeting be of the Treasurers of the seven Hospitals ; which may be convened by the Treasurer of any one of them : and that at such first meeting, or at any future one, as shall then be determined upon, it shall be resolved what other bodies shall be invited to appoint representatives, and what other measures shall be taken to facilitate the design.

THE END.







